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1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	Case No. 20-12345-mg
4	x
5	In the Matter of:
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7	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK,
8	
9	Debtor.
10	x
11	
12	United States Bankruptcy Court
13	One Bowling Green
14	New York, NY 10004
15	
16	October 23, 2023
17	2:01 PM
18	
19	
20	
21	BEFORE:
22	HON MARTIN GLENN
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
24	
25	ECRO: UNKNOWN

Page 2 1 Status Conference RE: Mediation (Doc # 2590) 2 3 Hybrid Hearing RE: Order to Show Cause on Motion to Withdraw 4 Attorney. (Doc# 2540, 2542) 5 6 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion Pursuant to Rule 9019(a) of the 7 Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure for Entry of 8 and Order Approving a Settlement Agreement and Release 9 Between the Seminary, the Committee, and the Diocese. (Doc# 2548, 2549, 2551, 2552) 10 11 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief from Stay filed by 12 13 Daniel J Woodard on behalf of Claimant No. 90507. (Doc # 2478, 2491 2488, 2491, 2492, 2496 to 2498, 2573 to 14 2575, 2577 to 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 15 16 17 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief from Stay. (Doc# 2479, 2491 2488, 2491, 2492, 2496 to 2498, 2573 to 18 2575, 2577 to 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Page 3 1 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief from Stay filed by 2 Patrick Stoneking on behalf of 90472 (Claimant), 90391 (Claimant), (Claimant) 90383, 90209 (Claimant), Claimant 3 90397, Claimant 90385, Claimant 90373, Claimant 4 90364, Claimant 90354, Claimant 90336, Claimant 90329, 5 6 Claimant 90304, Claimant 90294, (Claimant) 90242, 7 90219 (Claimant) (Doc. No. 2480, 2488, 2489, 2491, 2492, 8 2573 to 2575, 2577 to 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 9 10 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief From Stay Filed by 11 Andrew Silvershein on behalf of Claimants, 90220, 90232, 90378, 90406, 90426, 90554, 90555, 90556. (Doc ## 12 2482, 2488, 2491, 2492, 2496 to 2498, 2573 to 2575, 2577 to 13 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 14 15 16 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief from Stay filed by 17 Stephenie Lannigan Bross on behalf of claimant 90161, claimant 90068, claimant 90066, claimant 90060, claimant 18 90044, claimant 90034, claimant 90033. (Doc No. 19 2483, 2488, 2491, 2492, 2496 to 2498, 2573 to 2575, 2577 to 20 21 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 22 23 24 25

Page 4 1 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief From Stay Filed by 2 Jordan Merson on behalf of Merson Law Sexual 3 Abuse Creditors (doc. no. 2484, 2491, 2496, 2497, 2499, 2573 4 to 2575, 2577 to 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596) 5 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief From Stay Filed by 6 Jason P. Amala on behalf of Claimant no. 90111. (Doc 7 # 2487 to 2492, 2496, 2497, 2573 to 2575, 2577, 2578, 2579, 8 2592, 2595, 2596) 9 10 Hybrid Hearing RE: Motion for Relief from Stay. (Doc# 2493, 11 2488, 2491, 2492, 2496 to 2498 2573 to 2575, 12 2577 to 2579, 2592, 2595, 2596 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Transcribed by: Sonya Ledanski Hyde

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	Pg 8 01 84
	Page 8
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Page 11 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 THE COURT: All right, please be seated. Good 3 afternoon, everyone. ALL: Good afternoon. 4 5 THE COURT: All right, let's start by going down 6 through the agenda. We'll get to more basic status 7 information in a little while. So the first matter on the 8 calendar is the motion that Mr. Garabedian to withdrawn; 9 it's ECF Docket No. 2542. There were no responses. Does 10 anybody wish to be heard? Go ahead. 11 MR. GARABEDIAN: Mitchell Garabedian, Your Honor, 12 good afternoon. 13 THE COURT: Good afternoon. 14 MR. GARABEDIAN: I set forth in my papers our 15 position. It's unopposed. Proof of claim was timely filed. 16 There are no pending motions. I believe that the allowance 17 of this motion will not materially adversely affect the interests of the client. 18 19 THE COURT: So was your client the subject of any 20 of the claim objections? 21 MR. GARABEDIAN: Yes, he was. There is a state 22 court action. I currently have a motion in state court, a 23 motion to withdrawn in state court before that court. THE COURT: But was there a motion in this court? 24 25 Did the Diocese object to your client's claim?

	Page 12
1	MR. GARABEDIAN: Yes, at that time.
2	THE COURT: And what was I didn't look to see
3	what the result was.
4	MR. GARABEDIAN: The case was you allowed the
5	Diocese motion.
6	THE COURT: I sustained the Diocese's objection to
7	the claim?
8	MR. GARABEDIAN: Yes.
9	THE COURT: Without leave to amend?
10	MR. GARABEDIAN: Correct.
11	THE COURT: All right. And is your client
12	appealing that decision?
13	MR. GARABEDIAN: The case is currently in state
14	court.
15	THE COURT: That's not my question. With respect
16	to many of the claims to which this Court has sustained
17	objections, there have been appeals taken from my decision.
18	Did you or your client appeal the order sustaining the
19	Diocese's objection to your client's claim?
20	MR. GARABEDIAN: No.
21	THE COURT: And has the time for an appeal
22	expired?
23	MR. GARABEDIAN: Yes.
24	THE COURT: I don't want to invade attorney-client
25	privilege, but did you advise your client of the time within

Page 13 1 which your client could appeal? 2 MR. GARABEDIAN: I have advised my client and I 3 really can't get into the attorney-client --THE COURT: I don't want to get into the details 4 5 of it. Does anybody from the Diocese want to be heard? 6 MR. GERMAINE: No, Your Honor, we have no 7 objection. 8 THE COURT: All right, the motion is granted. 9 MR. GARABEDIAN: Thank you. 10 THE COURT: Submit the order in Word format. I 11 just want to make some notes. 12 All right. The next matter on the calendar is the 13 Seminary settlement motion; it's ECF 2548. It's a motion 14 filed by the Committee. Who's going to argue, Miss Dine? 15 MS. DINE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Karen Dine 16 of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones on behalf of the Committee. 17 Your Honor, the Committee and the Seminary, along with the Diocese, reached a settlement relating to a 18 19 prepetition transfer that had been made to the Seminary. 20 THE COURT: It sounds like a nice piece of 21 property. 22 MS. DINE: Yes. It's a beautiful piece of 23 property, and I believe most of it now is going to be state 24 park land, although the Seminary is going to retain 25 approximately --

Page 14 1 THE COURT: 16 acres? 2 MS. DINE: -- 16 acres that has the Seminary 3 buildings on them for continued use. And we have agreed to 4 a split of the proceeds at the time of the sale: 80 percent 5 to the Diocese or to an abuse trust if there ultimately is one, and then 20 percent to the Seminary. 7 THE COURT: So my question when I reviewed this settlement -- I know no objections have been filed -- is 8 9 what happens if this case is dismissed? 10 MS. DINE: If this case is dismissed, Your Honor, 11 the settlement goes forward and it essentially becomes the 12 settlement --13 THE COURT: Well, there's no trust that's created because the settlement --14 15 MS. DINE: If there's no trust --16 THE COURT: -- as I understand it contemplated if 17 there was a plan, there would be a trust established where 18 the proceeds from that sale would be held. Obviously, if the case is dismissed, there is no trust. 19 20 MS. DINE: That is correct and it will effectively 21 be a settlement of the Diocese and the Seminary with respect 22 to what would have been Diocese's claims for the transfer 23 and the money would go to the Diocese for them to use as 24 appropriate. 25 THE COURT: Without restriction on the Diocese.

Page 15 1 MS. DINE: There is no restriction on the Diocese. 2 THE COURT: As I don't have it open in front of me, but when I looked at it, I think it contemplated that 3 4 the proceeds would be held by the Diocese until some point 5 in 2016, I thought. Do I have that wrong? 6 MS. DINE: Sorry, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: What I was --MS. DINE: So if the case were still ongoing and 8 9 the money came in before the trust was established, the 10 Diocese would hold the money to then contribute to the trust 11 when it was established. 12 THE COURT: Was that a 2016 date? I'm trying to 13 remember now. 14 MS. DINE: I'm not sure why there would be a 2016 15 date, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Hold on, let me see. I must be 17 remembering incorrectly. Can somebody help me? I thought 18 if the case remains open, how long are those funds -- but 19 there is no confirmed plan; how long are those funds to be 20 held by the Diocese? MS. DINE: From the Committee's view --21 22 THE COURT: Let's assume I approve it, let's assume it was sold next week and the case were to remain 23 open, we didn't have a confirmed plan; how would the funds 24 25 be held?

Page 16 1 MS. DINE: I believe that the Diocese would be 2 holding the funds effectively in escrow where it had amount 3 of funds to be applied to a trust if, in fact, that was in 4 the confirmed plan. 5 THE COURT: And what I'm trying to remember is I 6 thought I saw that there was --7 MS. DINE: There may have been --8 THE COURT: -- a deadline by which something had 9 to happen. MS. DINE: I believe we put in a deadline because 10 11 the sale is, I believe, at least a year or so off, that I 12 believe we put in and ultimately guide language may have 13 been 2026 for when the agreement made --14 THE COURT: That's what I was saying, the 2026 15 date that I --16 MS. DINE: Yes, when the agreement would terminate 17 because the sale hadn't occurred and the settlement 18 agreement would no longer be effective. 19 THE COURT: That was the 2026 date. 20 MS. DINE: Yes, I believe so. THE COURT: That must be what --21 22 MS. DINE: I may be misremembering, and Mr. 23 Heuer... 24 MR. HEUER: I was scurrying in the background 25 looking at, yes.

Page 17 1 THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from somebody 2 from the Diocese. 3 MS. BALL: Corrine Ball, Jones Day, for the Diocese. Your Honor, there's a long lead time on the 4 5 closing of this sale, but a very short time to get the 6 contracts in place and keep the sale moving. 7 THE COURT: Is there a buyer? MS. BALL: Yes, there is, Your Honor. 8 9 THE COURT: Oh, it's the County. 10 MS. BALL: No, the State of New York is buying 11 most of it, and a very small portion is being bought by the 12 Town of Lloyd Harbor. 13 THE COURT: And are there contracts in place for 14 those purchases? 15 MS. BALL: We need to address the lis pendens to 16 get those contracts moving, which is one of the things that 17 the settlement with the Committee will enable us to do, so that Mr. Heuer on behalf of the Seminary can move that sale 18 19 forward and we can bring in the proceeds, but I don't think 20 they're expected until 2024. 21 THE COURT: Okay. And if you would, Miss Ball, 22 let's assume the case is dismiss, what happens? MS. BALL: The sale would forward in the same 23 fashion, Your Honor, and the proceeds would come into the 24 25 Diocese.

Page 18 1 THE COURT: Without restriction. 2 MS. BALL: Without restriction. 3 THE COURT: Okay. Does anybody else wish to be 4 heard with respect to the Seminary settlement? Mr. Heuer? MR. HEUER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. William 5 6 Heuer, Westerman Ball for the Seminary. 7 As the parties said, we have the Village of Lloyd 8 Harbor taking its piece, New York State taking its piece. I 9 have draft contracts with each, everyone's eager for the 10 order of approval, and we're moving forward with that 11 process. It will take about a year, we've been told, by New 12 York State to get through closing just because of their 13 internal process. 14 THE COURT: So tell me what happens, Mr. Heuer, if 15 at some point in the future before a sale closes the Chapter 16 11 case is dismissed? 17 MR. HEUER: So in the settlement agreement itself, 18 it provides that if the case is dismissed, this is purely a 19 settlement between the Seminary and the Diocese of the 20 claims that could have been asserted, so the funds would go 21 back to the Diocese. 22 THE COURT: Okay. Does anybody else wish to be 23 heard? The settlement is approved. 24 MS. DINE: Thank you, Your Honor. 25 MR. HEUER: Thank you, Your Honor.

Page 19 1 THE COURT: All right. The next matter under 2 contested matters, the lift stay motions. There are 3 numerous motions. There was a joinder by the Committee, an 4 opposition by the Debtor. Who's going to argue on behalf of 5 the Committee? 6 MR. BURNS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Burns, special insurance counsel to the Committee. 7 8 In this Court's decision on the Diocese's motion 9 for preliminary injunction, this Court distinguishes between 10 threats to the estate's insurance policies and actions to 11 obtain control of the proceeds of the policies, the latter 12 being subject to automatic stay, the former not. 13 The moving survivor's settlement demands are just 14 threats to the --15 THE COURT: I'm sorry, what? 16 MR. BURNS: Are just threats to the policies. 17 we had to anticipate the response from the insurers, it 18 would be a hard no. 19 THE COURT: Let me ask you this, Mr. Burns. 20 many demand letters have been sent to the Diocese by 21 claimants? 22 MR. BURNS: None have been sent yet, Your Honor. 23 There are 38 ready to be sent. 24 THE COURT: Is there anything that would have 25 prevented any of the claimants from sending demand letters

to the Diocese?

MR. BURNS: So, Your Honor, in abundance of caution on our part when the Committee in Rochester sent demands with no objection from the Diocese, the recalcitrant insured their immediate plea objected. And also Your Honor is probably aware that Judge Kinsella ruled against us on a lift stay motion a few weeks --

THE COURT: I did, I read the transcript because the Diocese attached the transcript. So in the Diocese's objection in Paragraph 4 on Page 3, it says, "The Diocese is willing to receive and transmit the demand letters from the lift stay claimants to its insurers, and the Diocese has made that clear to the Committee during several meetings held with respect to the lift stay motions." It goes on from there, but I'll stop there.

So it didn't seem to me even to require the

Diocese to say you want to make demand of us, make demands.

Do you agree after receiving the Diocese's response that

there was no impediment from any of the claimants making a

demand on the Diocese?

MR. BURNS: The only impediment, the concern that the insureds would raise, a violation --

THE COURT: Well, what standing do the insurers have to object to claimants asserting -- making a demand on the Diocese?

Page 21 1 MR. BURNS: Your Honor, I would say they have no 2 standing. 3 THE COURT: I agree with that. MR. BURNS: Their prepetition rights aren't 4 5 affected. 6 THE COURT: I agree with that completely. So I 7 don't understand the purpose of this motion when there has 8 been no impediment to claimants making a demand on the 9 It's from the Diocese that they purport to have 10 claims. 11 MR. BURNS: Your Honor, the only purpose -- we 12 would have withdrawn the motion after the Diocese agreed to, 13 but before we could meet with the Diocese, Judge Kinsella 14 had ruled. And it seemed to us that it would be imprudent 15 to move forward. 16 THE COURT: People regularly withdraw motions 17 before me when they decide it's really unnecessary. Do you 18 agree your motion is unnecessary? 19 I agree, Your Honor, our motion is MR. BURNS: 20 unnecessary. I think the insurance companies have no 21 standing to object to this. I think these are just mere 22 threats to the insurance policies, they're not seeking to obtain control of the proceeds, and the Committee has 23 24 already said before --25 If you agree, I take it, that THE COURT:

Page 22 1 claimants don't have a basis for taking control of the 2 policies at this stage, correct? 3 MR. BURNS: We would have to seek relief from the 4 state to do so, Your Honor. THE COURT: Well, it's more than just relief from 5 6 the stay. I mean, there's applicable state law with respect 7 to whether or when injured parties can assert claims against 8 an insurer, correct? MR. BURNS: Well, the --9 10 THE COURT: It's not their insurer; it's the 11 Diocese's insurer. MR. BURNS: Well, then that would be why we're 12 13 making claims on the Diocese. If we make a claim on the 14 Diocese and the insurance companies say yes, that would 15 present an opportunity for potential settlement in --16 THE COURT: So what was everybody waiting for if 17 they wanted to make claims on the Diocese; you agree there's 18 nothing that would have been an impediment to that. MR. BURNS: No, Your Honor, just an abundance of 19 20 caution. 21 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Burns. 22 MR. BURNS: I think the Court understands the 23 issues here written, so we'll rest on our papers. 24 THE COURT: Okay. Who's going to argue for the 25 Diocese?

Pg 23 of 84 Page 23 1 MS. BALL: Your Honor has correctly reflected our 2 willingness to deliver letters. We note, however --THE COURT: That's a giant step, I say 3 4 facetiously. 5 MS. BALL: Oh, we agree, one we're very 6 comfortable making. However, we put out to Your Honor that 7 reply is replete with references to advancing a plan. We're 8 not sure that this will assist in achieving that same 9 purpose and, to the extent it does lead to discovery, we would ask that that not occur and we avoid the expense. 10 11 THE COURT: Well, let me put it this way. 12 Committee has acknowledged that lifting the stay is 13 unnecessary in order for claimants to deliver demand letters 14 to the Diocese. The motion is denied. 15 MS. BALL: Thank you, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Okay. That brings us to the status 17 conference. MR. AMALA: Your Honor, I apologize. Your Honor, 18 it's Jason Amala for Claimant No. 90111. We had filed a 19 20 motion for relief from stay for the same purpose, and I just 21 want to confirm the Court's (indiscernible). 22 THE COURT: I'm denying all motions to the stay. 23 I understand. The motions to lift the stay were filed by 24 claimants, including ones you represent. The Committee

filed a joinder in it. The motions themselves were really

quite short; it was quite clear what relief you were seeking. And I've reviewed all of the motions, the joinder, the Diocese objection, and the motions are denied.

Go ahead and send your demand letters, you know, that's fine.

MR. AMALA: Thank you, Your Honor. That's all I wanted to confirm. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. So it brings us to the status conference. So among the things that I've received, obviously, I received the mediator's status report. I received the Pachulski Stang letter asking that the Court immediately remove the Diocese letter from the docket. I also have -- I mean, that was October 20th.

October 19th was the Jones Day letter to the Court regarding the status and attached a term sheet to it.

I was certainly sorry to hear from the mediators, and I guess it was Mr. Van Osselaer who filed the status report indicating that Magistrate Judge Cave authorized the filing of that. And mediator's status report in Paragraph No. 1 includes the following sentence, "All parties recognize that those sessions were the likely final sessions if there was to be an agreement reached prior to the Court's October 21, 2023 deadline for those parties to announce a consensual plan of reorganization."

I didn't go back to look at the actual wording of

the order. There's no question that October 31, the Court designated that as an important date that's in the order that I entered denying the motion to dismiss without prejudice. That date came about because I asked the Committee and I asked the Debtors how much time did they think was going to be required. The Committee said 30 days, and Mr. Geremia said October. I said beginning of October or end of October, and he said October 31. That was the date that was included in the order.

Each side no doubt -- when I say each side,
there's obviously more than two sides, but when I'm
referring to each side, I'm talking about the Committee and
the Debtor -- may have a different view about progress, lack
of progress. Obviously, no plan structure was achieved
before -- well, we haven't hit October 31 yet, but close.

And I don't want to invade the mediation privilege and what transpired in the mediation. It's unclear to me what the stumbling blocks are to reaching a consensual plan. Earlier on in this case, I asked the question, what I've had a hard time -- I've said this before -- what I have a hard time understanding is what's the aggregate quantum of the abuse survivor's claims. And when I raised the issue of estimation for plan purpose, not for distribution, that suggestion was met with a resounding no from both the Debtor and the Committee.

Since receiving the mediator's status report, you know, I've pondered if -- you know, it's very hard to come to an agreement on a plan. Let's assume that the Committee and the state law counsel have a view about what the aggregate amount of the claims in this case are, whether that range or figures, what wight should be given to it. I mean, I respect the counsel who are involved in this case on all sides.

But, you know, you can write circles around what you think the Debtor's assets and the parishes -- they're non-debtors, but they've certainly upped the amount that they've offered to contribute to any plan -- you could draw circles around it. You could come to some range of what you view the value of all of the collective assets to be.

You've all focused on insurance. I don't know whether anything's been offered up from the insurers or not; I don't want to know that at this stage. But you all -- you know what the policies are, some without any aggregate policy limits, some with. I certainly permitted discovery with respect to Arrowood's financial ability to respond in connection with mediation.

It's hard for me to know what are the major stumbling blocks to coming to some agreement. And it may be, you know, the Committee may already have a motion to dismiss drafted that it's going to file on November 1st, I

don't know, and I don't know what the Diocese response to that's going to be. I know that in the letter that they sent regarding status of the mediation, they certainly recognize the distinct possibility that I may well dismiss this case. I don't want to be the first judge to dismiss a Diocese case, but I may well be.

So what's I've been trying to think about, are there ways to get a better handle on the claims so when I think about, outside of bankruptcy court, how have attempts been made to do that. The case I'm probably most familiar with is the General Motors bankruptcy and Motors

Liquidation, because that's on my watch. Judge Furman in the district court has the MDL -- I mean, it's largely done now -- and he followed a pattern that's similarly been applied in many MDL cases, mass tort or otherwise, and that is to have some trials of some test cases with multiple sides suggesting cases.

So, you know, for example, here, it could be the Diocese picking several cases, the Committee in consultation with the state court counsel picking several cases, where that would be. I haven't done it, but I'm certainly considering contacting the state court judge in Nassau County who's coordinating all of these cases, whether he has -- I know that supposedly long way from trial, but would he be prepared to try a number of test cases, try them to a

jury, see where they come out; try and get a better handle on what's the range of potential recoveries against parishes and/or the Diocese.

I don't know. I'm thinking out loud. I had a little reluctance to do that, but I thought I'm just going to do that today. Put it this way. Before I will dismiss the case -- and I might do that, I very well might -- and I'm sorry that the mediation has not led to a successful result, but I'm certainly -- one of the questions I'm going to ask the Diocese in response to any reviewed motion, what alternatives do you suggest, because the case isn't just going to go on the way it is. I've made that clear before. I don't see any reason for that.

You know, you can all go slog away in state court, you can appeal from whatever -- if I dismiss it, you can appeal and spend some time on the appellate process, but I don't think that's going to get to a result. And so, I don't know whether collectively, you have spoken about, no, we can't come to an agreement about what the specific number should be. Have we thought about a process in state or federal court to try and put, you know, some rings around it.

The only thing that I thought of was what's been common in large MDL cases, to actually try some test cases with the expectation or hope that those will become guides

to settlement; if not settlement precisely here, putting some parameters around what's the exposure of the Diocese and the parishes here. And I don't know whether you've talked about that, any of that, whether you -- to see whether short of dismissal you have some alternative suggestions about how to move this case forward. Let me stop there. Does either side want to have anything to say? Again, met with resounding silence. You're on mute, Mr. Stang. You're still on mute. MR. STANG: Now I'm off. Excuse me, Your Honor. James Stang, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones for the Committee. Your Honor, we do not think there is a serious dispute that the value of the claims far exceeds the amount that the Diocese has offered through its letter. And I don't know if you're going to get back to the propriety of that letter, but let me focus on the substance of your comments. THE COURT: Believe it or not, Mr. Stang, I looked at that letter quickly and I really didn't pay much attention to it because I didn't think that was -- that's a different issue from whether it ought to be sealed or whatever. I'm not addressing that yet. MR. STANG: Your Honor, I appreciate that, but I

do want to come back to the letter because the fact that you

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Pg 30 of 84 Page 30 1 didn't pay much attention to it is not beside the point, but 2 a lot of other people have seen that letter and it's been 3 published through a newspaper. THE COURT: So I don't know what good sealing it 4 or striking it would do now. The world knows all about it. 5 6 MR. STANG: Well, we reserve rights regarding 7 other remedies, but let me focus on what you asked about. 8 The Committee retained a company called Claro --9 I'm sorry, I missed the name. THE COURT: 10 MR. STANG: C-L-A-R-O. 11 THE COURT: Okay. 12 MR. STANG: -- to value the claim. Claro has been 13 retained in a number of other cases involving sexual abuse. 14 It testified in the Diocese of Camdem case on behalf of the 15 Committee; we do not represent the Committee in Camden. And 16 I don't think there's any serious question about the 17 qualifications of Katie McNally, who is the witness 18 appearing for Claro, as to her expertise. I am assuming that the Debtor has employed and use someone like Claro to 19 20 do the same function. 21 I don't think there's a serious question as to

whether the Diocese's and affiliate's offer is substantially less than the amount of the value of the claims. And the Debtor has tested certain aspects of those proofs of claim through a myriad of objections, and its average estimate in

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the letter, we think is grossly overstated because it is not accounting for the fact, as we said from the very first day of the claims objection process, that while claims may be disallowed against the Diocese, they still exist against the parties who would be channeled by any consensual claim.

But let me get away from whether the average is accurate or not. There's been a lot of testing of the claims. We know that regardless of what you might say about the value of the claims, Purdue, as it currently exists, requires that 75 percent of the survivors who are affected by the plan vote in favor of it, and that's the bare minimum.

And so, where I think that the Committee's position is well reasoned through the mediation, at the end of the day, the Diocese offer has to be accepted by more than 75 percent of the survivors. And you heard the testimony at the motion to dismiss about what positions were likely to be taken in a (indiscernible) that was on file by the Diocese at the time of that motion.

The Diocese makes a big deal of the fact that,

yes, they're offering this amount, but look at all the

insured's coverage that we've got, and I think in the

letter, they may actually even use the "b" word, billions.

But certainly their position has been, and has been

consistent throughout the case, that the real value here is

with insurance. Well, it's no cakewalk to get the insurance. The way that the parties have negotiated about how the insurance may be treated makes it even less of a cakewalk. And while you may not know the results of the Arrowood discovery that you ordered some weeks ago, Arrowood is not low-hanging fruit by any stretch of the imagination; frankly, none of the carriers are. There are four coverage actions pending.

And so, when we look at the totality of the circumstances, we do not see the Diocese's last and best offer as being adequate. It just -- I use the expression sometimes, "The picture is much bigger than the frame." The picture is the liability of the Diocese and the affiliates. There's no question in our mind that the picture exceeds the frame.

Now, the reality has to set in that to get a deal, you have to cut the edges of the picture and make it fit.

We don't think the Diocese and its affiliates are doing enough to -- or working or cinching their belts enough to get the value that would enable them to do right by the survivors and at the same time continue their mission.

Our stance throughout this case has been that recognition that the Diocese and its affiliates perform admissions for various legal reasons and perhaps personal reasons, people think that that admission has to continue

and should continue and we recognize that in our discussions. We just don't think that they're trying hard enough.

So let's talk about test cases for a moment. The matters that were released from the preliminary injunction are going forward before Judge Steinman in state court.

That may have been the judge you were referring to.

THE COURT: It is.

MR. STANG: Those cases do not represent the universe of all the cases. They really approach the preliminary injunction opposition in a very narrow way to try to maximize our chances of getting success. Our goal was to try to see if that release from the injunction would result in advancements in the mediation, and let's just say that it hasn't advanced to the point where we can tell you we have an agreement.

THE COURT: Mr. Stang, let me interrupt you for a moment. I didn't say this before, but it something that crossed my mind. With respect to the concept of test cases, I would certainly consider lifting the stay against those actions that named -- you know, for test cases that named the Diocese as well as the parish. So test cases -- I did think about this -- test cases could include cases in which both the Diocese and a non-Diocese party was also parties to that action. Because I understand on the injunction motion,

you only sought to deny the injunction with respect to cases against the parish only, not (crosstalk) --

MR. STANG: That's correct. And Your Honor -THE COURT: That may not be an answer, but that's
-- you know, and it may be that the state court is just
totally unwilling to say, great, now I've got more cases
because it includes the Diocese as a defendant as well as

MR. STANG: Your Honor, I thought that's where you were going. In my notes, I wrote debtor question mark when you were talking about test cases. So I wasn't going to assume what you meant, but I was thinking you probably were headed in that direction. And I would ask state court counsel who are on this call to please correct if I'm wrong. I've never appeared before Judge Steinman. I don't attend the status conferences; Jones Day does. They apparently represent someone in those cases that they feel they should be taking the lead in the state court.

But I'm told that Judge Steinman has not accepted the notion of test cases for the cases he has before him.

And as to how he's handling them, the scheduling, I've been told he's being very aggressive in his pretrial scheduling.

But I would leave it to state court counsel to tell the

Court whether Judge Steinman thinks that for the 200 plus cases he's got -- actually, it may not be fully 200, a lot

the parish.

have been remanded but, you know, it's over 100, I know that, you know, how he feels about that.

THE COURT: Yeah, I'm not -- look, I could understand -- well, Judge Steinman will make his own decision whether he's prepared to agree to early trial in a number of test cases. But if doing that offered the potential of -- in other words, if the bankruptcy case was not dismissed at this time and hypothetically I'm saying each side pick two test cases, three test cases, it would probably be a lot easier for Judge Steinman to have to try six cases than 200 cases.

If the outcome of the test cases was essentially come back to the bankruptcy court and mediate further and see whether, now that there have been some circles drawn about high and low values, what's the universe of claims look like?

I'm sorry, Mr. Stang, I interrupted you, but that...

MR. STANG: No, no, that's all right. Your Honor,

I'm going to -- and Mr. Amala came right up on the camera; I

suspect he wants to say something about the test case

concept. I'm under the impression that we have not had the

discussion with the Diocese about releasing the Diocese from

the stay.

I mean, I've just heard what Miss Ball said about

Pg 36 of 84 Page 36 1 the demands, vis-à-vis the insurance, and how the Debtor 2 would resist discovery. I'm assuming that that's not -- the 3 stay relief against the Diocese is not happening today on a 4 consensual basis. Perhaps, I'm wrong, but you know, I'm 5 guessing here. 6 I don't think -- I'll let state court counsel 7 speak for themselves about the test case concept. But we 8 have spent a lot of time, a lot of money on expert advice as 9 to what these cases are worth, and those experts rely on 10 what is now becoming more and more data in New York 11 regarding child sex abuse verdicts. 12 So survivors will lose some cases in state court, 13 they will win some cases, and the notion of test cases on a 14 very limited basis --15 THE COURT: Hang on a second. 16 MR. STANG: -- I think that I would ask --17 THE COURT: Mr. Burns, if that's your phone, shut 18 it off because the next time -- everybody better have their 19 phones on mute or off. Go ahead, Mr. Stang. 20 MR. STANG: What the gavel is for, Your Honor. 21 You get one ring and boom. 22 THE COURT: You know, in 17 years, I've never had 23 my gavel out here. I've thought about it a few times. I've

regretted a few times that I didn't have it here. Go ahead,

Mr. Stang.

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MR. STANG: So I would ask Mr. Amala or others to comment on the utility of test cases in the context of where we are today.

So, Your Honor, my view of it is we know what the values are, we know the difficulties associated with the insurance. It's not how the Diocese describes it in its letter as if they're just writing checks. And we don't think that the affiliates and the Diocese -- I'm not going to point fingers as to which we think should spout more because that would get into the mediation, but they need to do more, and we just haven't been able to get there with the extra efforts of our two mediators.

THE COURT: Mr. Amala, do you want to be heard on the test case concept?

MR. AMALA: Sure, Your Honor. Jason Amala for a number of the claimants.

Your Honor, I believe the status conference we had with Judge Steinman, I don't remember if there was a court reporter present, and I was going to offer, if there was, that we can get you a transcript if you'd like to hear his comments or read his comments.

I just wanted to mention in response to Mr.

Stang's comments or description of that hearing. The plaintiffs had said we wanted to propose some test cases, the defendants were not agreeable to that at the time, and

so, Judge Steinman basically said, well look, right now, I'm not going to order it if people won't agree to it. He didn't -- and that was kind of it.

I will say, Your Honor, he also, Judge Steinman, indicated that he was very aware that this Court had set the end of October as a deadline. And so, Mr. Stang is right, he's been pushing the parties to get moving but he was also cognizant that this Court had set the end of October to see if the deal could be done.

So I think if we were to go back to him with the idea that this Court believes that some test cases could be helpful, I don't want to even begin to speak for him, but I think he may be open to that given the tenor of the hearing we had.

And, Your Honor, since you asked if I'd like to say a few words on test cases, I personally think it would be a very good idea and very helpful. I agree with Mr. Stang, there are experts that are testifying these days about the value of the cases. But I think some test cases would do a very good job of illustrating the value so that we're not having a battle of the experts; we can see what a jury says the cases are worth.

And I personally, Your Honor, the bigger issue
here could be very helpful is the reason I piped in earlier,
Your Honor, and asked about our motion for relief from stay

Page 39 1 to make a demand, insurance policy demand. That's the first 2 step in these cases of making an individual offer on a case, let the insurance companies respond. If they don't agree to 3 4 pay the case, then you go try it, and if you get a big 5 verdict and the carrier didn't pay the offer and they should 6 have, the carrier may have to pay the full freight. 7 The point is, Your Honor, some test cases I think 8 the bigger, not just the value of the cases, but I think in 9 terms of forcing these insurance companies to actually come to the table and not hide behind their coverage defenses. 10 11 think some test cases would do a very good job of moving 12 that along, not just in this bankruptcy but in, frankly, a 13 lot of other bankruptcies. 14 Thank you, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Amala. 16 MR. STANG: Your Honor, I don't know if other 17 state court counsel wanted to address you, but you said --18 THE COURT: Can you hang on for a second? We've 19 got a jet plane flying nearby here with a lot of noise. 20 Let's let it go by for a minute. 21 Go ahead, Mr. Stang. 22 MR. STANG: I thought it was a vacuum cleaner in 23 someone's background. 24 Your Honor, you made a comment about these test 25 cases could be in federal or state court.

Page 40 THE COURT: Well, I didn't really mean federal, 1 2 but I said it anyway. 3 MR. STANG: And I --4 THE COURT: I don't want to get stopped by judges 5 in the district court, but... 6 MR. STANG: Well, you know --THE COURT: I really want to try these cases, Mr. 7 8 Stang. 9 MR. STANG: You might have to take the stairs 10 rather than the elevator if you did that. 11 I would invite other state counsel on the call, 12 Your Honor, and we certainly would go back to the Committee 13 with the state court counsel participation to explore what 14 you said. And as you said and as you indicated, it's not 15 October 31st. We certainly have the time to assess the 16 concept and come back to you shortly before October 31st to 17 give you our reaction. But we do have several other state court counsel 18 19 on the call and if you're interested in hearing from them, I 20 suspect that -- Mr. Dowd just raised his hand -- I suspect 21 they'd be happy to address you. 22 THE COURT: I'd be happy to hear from any other state court counsel who want to be heard. 23 24 MR. DOWD: Yes, Your Honor. Michael Dowd. 25 represent a number of survivors in this case, and I would

very much be in favor of using test cases, frankly, to establish value. I think there's nothing like an American jury. They hear a case and decide it and it's the fairest and best way, you know, that we have, so I would say very much in favor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Dowd.

MR. DOWD: You're welcome, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Any other state court counsel who wish to be heard?

So let me -- you all have much more experience; I don't have any experience with these cases before this. So I'm sure you've all looked at it -- I look at it from time to time -- the Penn State Law School website, and they have these nice lists of those cases that have resulted in confirmed plans and those that have not. And, you know, I haven't looked at that website exhaustively, but yes, I have spent time on it, a variety of time over months.

And, you know, as we get closer to October 31st, I keep asking myself why have those cases succeeded and this one not. And, you know, I know -- I don't know why. I don't know why. I think the one thing that I see is there are more sex abuse claimants in this case; maybe there are, maybe there aren't, you know. And, you know, every week, I looked at another Diocese has filed, not a pretty picture. And you all collectively have been living with this case,

and other cases perhaps, and while the only thing that -well, let me come back to the insurance issues.

I've said this before when I raised the estimation question, which drew total silence, none of you were interested in that. And I understand that I couldn't do estimation for distribution purposes because of 157(b)(5), absent consent, not something I'd want to do anyway.

So I don't know whether you have other ideas, whether you've shared those ideas with each other or not, how to get this case from where it is now, which as far as I'm concerned is nowhere, close to an exit from the bankruptcy court door. Much as I would regret to be the first bankruptcy judge to dismiss a Diocese case, that may well be. It can't go on the way it has.

MR. STANG: Your Honor --

THE COURT: Just a second.

MR. STANG: I'm sorry.

THE COURT: So let me come back to the insurance.

So I do know from looking at the Penn State website, some of the cases have included settlements with some but not all insurers, some have not included any settlements with insurers. You know, that, it seems to me, requires on all of your sides some feeling of what's the likelihood of recovery, when, you know, no recovery. I mean, I know that the insurers have asserted various defenses to coverage.

So you may now, Mr. Stang, what the Diocese and the parishes, what pot they put together, but it leaves this giant question mark about insurance. I can't help you on that one.

Go ahead, Mr. Stang, I cut you off.

MR. STANG: Your Honor, in the Diocese of San

Diego case, Debtor's counsel advocating before now-retired

Judge Adler said the current values should be akin to what

was paid in the Diocese of Davenport, and Judge Adler turned

to Ms. Boswell and said, "But we have a view of the

Pacific." Every case is different and one of those

differences is that they have different assets.

And we believe that this is one of the wealthiest Diocese in the country. Every Diocese, usually in their opening, says we're the poorest Diocese in the country. I'd like to find the one that's actually the poorest. But we feel that the Long Island Diocese and its parishes have an ability to pay the values that we are advocating for in mediation. The insurers are the mediation parties. There have been mediation offers and counteroffers, and that's where I'll stop, not with everybody, some are more responsive than others, but they have not been left to decide.

In the Diocese of Rochester, the case in which we represent the committee, there is a settlement with at least

20-12345-mg Doc 2645 Filed 11/13/23 Entered 11/13/23 14:34:43 Main Document Pg 44 of 84 Page 44 1 one carrier and there isn't a settlement with CNA and CNA 2 has proposed its own plan in competition with the plan that the Diocese and the committee has presented, and we'll see 3 how Judge Warren deals with that. I think there are some 4 schedule orders that have come out and we'll have a 5 6 confirmation hearing there sometime, you know, I think in 7 the first quarter of next year. So we aren't prepared --8 THE COURT: May I ask a question? 9 MR. STANG: Yes, sir. 10 THE COURT: Does the plan in that case include 11 releases of the parishes? 12 MR. STANG: Yes, with projection to make sure that 13 the insurance piece doesn't get messed up by virtue of those 14 releases, but yes, it does. I think I can safely say it's 15 not one that I do day to day, that it's for their non-16 insurance assets. They have protection for their non-17 insurance assets. So I wanted -- you know, why is this case not 18 19 settling and the others have. And I think our latest count 20 is that our firm has represented committees in 17 cases that

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settling insurers and non-settling insurers and how the non-insurance cases are valued and handled by a trust is rough said or it's been known to at least in state court counsel in the BSA reorganization plan.

So, you know, why hasn't this case settled?

Because we don't think they're trying hard enough. Given that we recognize, as I said at the beginning, they're not going out of the business, they're not going out as the bishop. And we've done a lot of valuations of claims; we've done a lot of valuations of the assets. We think we know what the picture size is, we think we know what the frame size is.

We have talked to the Diocese about how we think they can achieve the number that we are asking for. We've done that in mediation. You know, we have a disagreement as to whether that is viable (indiscernible).

That's all I have, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you. Miss Ball.

MS. BALL: Thank you, Your Honor. I don't know whether to be happy or sad, but you seem to be losing sleep over this case almost as much as I am.

I have three things I want to say, but let me start with the most important. If we cannot build consensus on our post-mediation new offer never before made on or before October 31, we may have nowhere to go.

Page 46 1 I say that, Your Honor, because the resources are 2 not there. We took you quite seriously when you said 3 October 31 as the deadline to either be in plan mode or 4 prepare for the end. There is no more. However, Your Honor 5 has --6 THE COURT: If you'd like, I'll just say no plan 7 October 31, the case gets dismissed. 8 MS. BALL: Your Honor, indeed, we have asked the 9 Committee for their draft order. 10 THE COURT: I'm thinking about trying to think 11 about is there some other --12 MS. BALL: We have asked Committee twice. 13 THE COURT: -- something else that needs to be 14 exhausted. 15 MS. BALL: All right, Your Honor, let's get to 16 that, your idea of test cases. You know where a test case 17 should be done? Under a plan, that's where they can and 18 should be done on the same premise that you're talking about 19 now, because the target of these claim valuations. You 20 heard Mr. Stang, it's not the uninsured exposure, which by 21 the way, we of course think we are covering, but let's not 22 debate that; it's the claim values into the insurance, they're the targets. Fine, get us in plan mode, do the test 23 24 case, we'll work with you but do it post-emergence. 25 Judge, there just is no more. I have to

underscore that. The reason Mr. Geremia suggested October 31 on that fateful day in May was because we're running out of money, and we planned for getting through with this case. We can do it if we're out by early 2024, which is why we have said and we're focused on the deadline of October 31. I think you're right; we did want all claims to know our post-mediation offer because we thought the end was in I don't think that that has changed. But by the same token, we are very open to test cases in the context of a post-emergence trial strategy. can be done; it was discussed. It was proposed by the creditor's committee in Camden; it ultimately didn't happen. But that's where that strategy belongs because the target is in the insurers. The claim valuations that we have, we look around, we are doing all that we can without having to close schools, close churches, and sell. THE COURT: What do you do if there are test cases that result, hypothetically, in a \$2 million compensatory damages and \$5 million punitive damages, which is not insurable. MS. BALL: It's also not allowable in bankruptcy. THE COURT: You're talking about -- I'm talking about test cases in state court, whether it's pre- or postconfirmation.

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Pq 48 of 84 Page 48 1 MS. BALL: I would assume the trust distribution 2 procedures, if we were to do it as we take your idea as I 3 suggest, it would not the issue, the 2 million would be there. 4 5 THE COURT: If there are test -- all right. 6 say post-confirmation. 7 MS. BALL: That's right. 8 THE COURT: If it's pre-confirmation and the stay 9 is lifted and case goes to a jury and they return some mega 10 million dollar punitive damage award with a large 11 compensatory damage award, you've just seen the insurance go 12 out the door for the punitive damages. 13 MS. BALL: And for the claimants, Your Honor. 14 THE COURT: And there is a, you know, unsettled 15 issue, let me put it that way, in bankruptcy, whether or not 16 punitive damages are recoverable. Clearly in a Chapter 7 17 case in an insolvent debtor case, they're not, but in a 18 Chapter 11 case, not so clear. I have an opinion that said you can't recover them in the Chapter 11 case, but I think 19 20 there's a split in authority on that. 21 MS. BALL: Fair enough, Your Honor. But in this, 22 Professor Reilly tells us, there are 36 Diocese cases. In 23 those that have confirmed plans, most of the trust procedures deal with this issue. So again, the idea -- and 24

that's why we made --

THE COURT: But you can't get to an agreement with the Committee.

MS. BALL: Well, that's why we made a minimum consideration offer to each claimant in this case, and we believe they deserve to know what our offer is if, indeed, we're facing the end. That offer was never made prior to our letter of October 19th.

Your Honor's question of resources. There is no more and it should come as no surprise to you that people are thinking of conserving whatever little resources they have left for the alternative scenarios, which could be as dreadful as you just outlined. We understand, but there is no more. We can't last; we can't continue to fund the case.

So I would urge the parties to try to build consensus around our post-mediation offer and graft on the test cases, because we agree with Your Honor, the main show here is the insurance.

Your Honor will read in our letter, most of the cash we're getting is borrowed. We are out -- as Your Honor knows, you've helped us with some the NDAs; we are out doing everything we can. But just drumming up donors, for instance, is an idea that was floated. It's just feasible for a plan.

So I think, sad as it is, I guess we have seven days, seven or eight days left to see if we can move towards

Page 50 1 consensus and build on your test case theory as a post-2 confirmation option because we cannot afford to stay here 3 while you test cases -- well, not you, Your Honor. 4 THE COURT: I'm not going to test cases. 5 MS. BALL: I know, I did not mean to put that 6 burden on you -- while these cases are prosecuted, can't do 7 it. With that, Your Honor, I would ask if you have any 8 9 other questions. 10 THE COURT: Has the District Court in the Southern 11 District ever ruled on your --12 MS. BALL: Not yet, Your Honor. But as you can 13 imagine, I think you're going to see references to that kind 14 of motion in many amicus briefs being filed this Friday in 15 Purdue, as clearly demonstrating an intent that things like 16 that could be done and district courts could grant those 17 releases. But as far as I know, I think she's awaiting the 18 Judge Schoenfeld -- forgive me -- is awaiting the 19 outcome of December 31. 20 THE COURT: October 31. 21 MS. BALL: Oh, sorry. 22 THE COURT: December 31, the supreme court. 23 MS. BALL: I am not asking for an extension, not 24 by any stretch. 25 It may get argued in December, but I THE COURT:

Page 51 1 don't expect it to be decided until the spring, maybe come 2 to the term. MS. BALL: I think that's probably -- well, we'd 3 like to be out. We'd like to have claimants paid. 4 5 THE COURT: I see that the Boy Scouts --6 MS. BALL: We'd like to pay them a lot on the 7 effective date; that's where we all want to be. And that way, test cases can test the insurance, which is the true 8 9 target of test cases, while claimants don't have to wait for 10 even longer periods of time. 11 So we would urge people to think about that and 12 thank Your Honor for what we thought was the end date of 13 October 31. 14 THE COURT: Well, what I understand you to be 15 saying is you don't have any alternatives to suggest to the 16 Court to reach some agreement with the Committee before 17 October 31. Or, you know, an alternative going forward -- I 18 didn't expect you're going to have a signed deal on October 19 31 and I never said that. 20 MS. BALL: You didn't? 21 THE COURT: But if I'm understanding you 22 correctly, the Diocese is only willingness to consider the 23 test case mode is in the context of a confirmed plan. MS. BALL: We can't afford it. 24 25 THE COURT: All right.

Page 52 1 MS. BALL: We can't afford it, Your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Are there any other -- I don't necessarily expect it today, but certainly within the next 3 If there any other alternatives that any of the 4 5 parties interest wish to put forward to dismissal -- I don't 6 have a dismissal motion in front of me, but it can't be long 7 in coming -- I'm open to considering it more so hoping that 8 you will all consider it. 9 The one thing that I haven't moved one iota from 10 is this case can't go on the way it has been. And with 11 great reluctance that I -- and I have no regrets for having 12 done it -- asked you all for a date, got the October 31 13 date, and I meant it, unless you all come to some construct 14 to get this case beyond October 31. I mean, the motion is 15 going to have to be on regular notice and all that, so now 16 I'm not sure. It isn't like I automatically sign some order 17 on October 31 dismissing the case, but... 18 Does anybody have anything they want to add? Mr. 19 Zipes? 20 MR. ZIPES: Your Honor, Greg Zipes with the U.S. 21 Trustee's Office. 22 I have no great insights into what should be done here, except that one possibility that the parties have been 23 talking about is third-party contributions and releases. 24

And the Purdue case does seem large, but one way to avoid

Page 53 1 Purdue issues is possibly to have opt-ins rather than opt-2 outs; that's just a possibility for --THE COURT: Well, when I -- Mr. Zipes, when I 3 4 looked at the landscape of confirmed cases, they typically 5 included third-party non-debtor releases. And I actually 6 asked someone who had something to do with one of the cases 7 elsewhere and I ask about it and he said there were no objections. No one has suggested -- I don't think it's been 8 9 suggested in Purdue -- that consensual releases can't be 10 granted. 11 MR. ZIPES: Correct. THE COURT: And at least as the law stands in this 12 13 circuit for now, non-consensual releases that satisfy the 14 factors the Second Circuit set forth in Purdue, and the Boy 15 Scouts seems to have tried to have skirt under it all by 16 getting a plan that's substantially consummated before some 17 other appellate court can get to it. MR. ZIPES: And, Your Honor --18 19 THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Zipes. 20 MR. ZIPES: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I was just --21 when I'm talking about opt-in, it might be too much insider 22 baseball for everybody. THE COURT: I keep ruling against your office on 23 24 opt-in. 25 Your Honor, I understand that, but I'm MR. ZIPES:

Page 54 1 just saying to avoid -- that is a possibility is to do it 2 consensually. I mean, that is --THE COURT: Well, it leaves -- I don't know what 3 4 it leaves open. 5 MR. ZIPES: But, Your Honor, I did want to also 6 address, if I could, on the insurance issues, and there was 7 a specific issue in this case relating to disclosure and there is discovery taking place in that regard. And it 8 9 would be helpful from my office's perspective, nothing 10 confidential obviously, but just to get a general update on 11 that. 12 THE COURT: I'm not sure what you're talking 13 I don't know -- I got lots of things on my calendar 14 at the moment. I have no idea what you're talking about. 15 MR. ZIPES: Okay. Your Honor, I can address that 16 separately, so I'll do that. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Anybody else wish to be heard? 18 MR. STANG: Your Honor, on process --THE COURT: You have to give your name, Mr. Stang. 19 20 You have to identify yourself whenever you... MR. STANG: I apologize. James Stang for the 21 22 Committee. 23 Your Honor, we are not going to file a motion to 24 dismiss before October 31st. My take from your comments is 25 that you will want the Committee to -- absent a stipulation

Page 55 1 by the Debtor and presentment of an offer, you would want 2 the Committee to file a new motion. THE COURT: Yes. 3 MR. STANG: Okay. Wanted to be clear about that 4 5 and --6 THE COURT: I never contemplated a sua sponte 7 dismissal, let me put it that way. 8 MR. STANG: Got it. So, Your Honor, I think 9 there's a hearing scheduled for November 2, or at least 10 maybe chambers indicated there was availability. Perhaps it 11 would make sense for us to reconvene on the 2nd and see what 12 happened on the 31st? 13 MS. BALL: Your Honor, I think there's a hearing on the 31st on the matter that Mr. Zipes described. 14 15 THE COURT: Okay. 16 MS. BALL: Would that be adjourn date as well? 17 THE COURT: There's a hearing at 2:00. 18 MS. DINE: The adjourn date wasn't actually until 19 November 20th, so no. When we had looked at the calendar, 20 the 31st was no longer on the Court's calendar, so we should 21 confirm whether that date is available. 22 MS. BALL: We should confer. THE COURT: Give me a moment, let me look. The 23 24 one thing that has changed on my calendar, I had a lengthy 25 trial starting on November 1st. One group of defendants

Page 56 settled and it was the remaining group and the trial start date has been adjourned to November 6th, so there are invariably dates that remain open because I moved the trial from November 1st to November 6th. Give me a second. MS. BALL: I believe 31st was one of the omnibus dates that chambers had given us. THE COURT: Yeah. I think there's a 2:00. MS. BALL: Yes. THE COURT: Just bear with me a second, so decide if we want to do it. For some reason, this is frozen. Everybody sit still. I'll be back in a minute. Don't get up when I come back in. Let me just see what my calendar looks like. Well, I could hear this matter again at 2:00 on Wednesday, November 1st, or the 2nd is wide open. I have something in the morning on November 1st, but the 2nd is wide open. I don't want to just have a session to wring my hands again, you know. Tell me what you'd like. Mr. Stang. MR. STANG: Either date is fine, Your Honor. I think it will be a quick report because you're right, we'll be ready to either file a motion to dismiss or some alternative. Given the outcome of today's hearing, we have to discuss that with our client, but the 1st at 2:00 p.m. is But I agree, we're not going to turn this into a what

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Page 57 1 do we do now hearing. 2 THE COURT: Is the Debtor available on Wednesday, 3 November 1st at 2:00 p.m.? MS. BALL: Yes, Your Honor. 4 THE COURT: We'll add it to the calendar. 5 6 MS. BALL: Thank you. 7 THE COURT: You know, with so many good, creative lawyers, I find it difficult to believe that you can't find 8 9 a way to deal -- I don't underestimate the difficulty here. 10 Let me spare everybody what I have to say. Think out of the 11 box. 12 Let me ask this. In those cases where the 13 insurers have not settled, what's happened post-confirmation 14 in those cases that confirmed where insurance went into a 15 trust or whatever? 16 MR. STANG: Your Honor, James Stang for the 17 Committee. There haven't been a lot of them that have really 18 19 into a serious lapse of times to the confirmation. In a 20 case called the Christian Brothers of Ireland, it wasn't an 21 insurance company that was the target post-confirmation, it 22 was the Archdiocese of Seattle because it had an affiliation 23 with one of the Christian Brothers schools or childcare 24 facilities. And it was very successful in terms extracting 25 that, but it was a very different scenario because the

Archdiocese of Seattle was not in the financial condition that Arrowood is and, of course, it didn't have the same kinds of coverage defenses.

And so, when we look at a budget for what could happen post-confirmation in a scenario that Miss Ball is describing, we have significant costs associated with prosecuting that in terms of the coverage actions because we're not as a settlement trust -- I say we -- the settlement trust obviously is not doing the underlying state court actions.

But there's also the issue of Diocese expenses.

She has talked about how they are at the end of their resources. Their involvement would be significant and would not come for free.

So the answer to your question is we don't have a lot of track record for the ones where there have been insurance companies left out. And the one that I can think of that's analogous, I don't think is all that analogous.

MS. BALL: Your Honor, if I may. I think --

THE COURT: Could you come up to the podium, Miss Ball. Thank you.

MS. BALL: Thank you. Corinne Ball for Jones Day.

Boy Scouts is another model. As you know, we have reached

out to state court counsel to talk about all the things

you're raising. And in that model, and I know it's one that

Mr. Stang is familiar with, there is a sharing of compensation awarded in those test cases between the plaintiffs and the settlement trust, but they have managed to do it.

But in terms of sharpening our pencils and being creative, I remind Your Honor you already helped us. We do have a lender in the wings, Global Resolution, to cover this Arrowood hole in expense in the interim. We have tried to be creative and we will, at least for the next nine days, continue to do so.

example of settling insurance, non-settling insurance going forward. And we have the benefit because many of our state court counsel in this case are on the advisory committee in Boy Scouts, so I am sure they would -- if we can reach a construct on our last offer, I am sure we would get the benefit of their thinking as to how they might improve on what was done in Boy Scouts. They definitely shared with us they have some thoughts about how that might move forward better because you may recall, it took almost two years to even get minimum distributions made, the 3500 per claimant.

So, Your Honor, that's out there as well. And again, creative people do find way when they're dedicated to it.

THE COURT: Last comment I would make is that

Page 60 1 certainly, the Committee can certainly file its motion to 2 dismiss after October 31. But if there are some renewed 3 constructive talks, you could all informally agree to 4 forebear on filing your motion while you actually explored 5 whether there is a viable construct that could help bridge 6 the gaps where you are. That's in your court, not mine. 7 I will see you at 2:00 on November 1st for another 8 hybrid hearing, okay? 9 All right, we're adjourned. Thank you very much. 10 MS. BALL: Thank you, Your Honor. 11 MR. STANG: Thank you, Your Honor. 12 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 13 3:29 PM) 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Page 61 1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 I, Sonya Ledanski Hyde, certified that the foregoing 4 transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. 5 6 Soneya M. deslarske Hydl 7 Sonya Ledanski Hyde 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 Veritext Legal Solutions 21 330 Old Country Road 22 Suite 300 Mineola, NY 11501 23 24 25 Date: October 25, 2023

[& - 500] Page 1

	20 12245 1 2	2406 2 14 10	2506 2 15 10
&	20-12345 1:3	2496 2:14,18	2596 2:15,19
& 5:10 13:16	200 34:24,25	3:13,20 4:3,7	3:8,14,21 4:4,8
29:11	35:11	4:11	4:12
0	201 7:17	2497 4:3,7	2:00 55:17 56:8
	2016 15:5,12	2498 2:14,18	56:15,24 57:3
02109 5:6	15:14	3:13,20 4:11	60:7
1	2020-2006749	2499 4:3	2:01 1:17
1 24:20	5:4	25 61:25	2nd 55:11
10 6:10	2023 1:16	250 5:19	56:16,17
100 5:5 35:1	24:23 61:25	2540 2:4	3
10004 1:14	2024 17:20	2542 2:4 11:9	3 20:10
10014 7:18	47:4	2548 2:10	30 25:6
10017 5:13	2026 16:13,14	13:13	300 61:22
1006 7:17	16:19	2549 2:10	31 25:1,8,15
10100 6:17	20th 24:13	2551 2:10	45:25 46:3,7
10281 5:20	55:19	2552 2:10	47:2,5 50:19
11 18:16 48:18	21 24:23	2573 2:14,18	50:20,22 51:13
48:19	217-59 7:10	3:8,13,20 4:3,7	51:17,19 52:12
11361 7:11	23 1:16	4:11	52:14,17 60:2
11501 61:23	2478 2:14	2575 2:15,19	31st 40:15,16
11556 6:4	2479 2:17	3:8,13,20 4:4,7	41:18 54:24
1201 6:3	2480 3:7	4:11	55:12,14,20
12151 61:7	2482 3:13	2577 2:15,19	56:6
1300 6:17	2483 3:20	3:8,13,20 4:4,7	330 61:21
157 42:6	2484 4:3	4:12	34th 5:12
16 14:1,2	2487 4:7	2578 4:7	3500 59:21
17 36:22 44:20	2488 2:14,18	2579 2:15,19	36 48:22
19th 24:14	3:7,13,20 4:11	3:8,14,21 4:4,7	
49:7	2489 3:7	4:12	38 19:23
1st 26:25 55:25	2491 2:14,14	2590 2:1	3:29 60:13
56:4,16,17,24	2:18,18 3:7,13	2592 2:15,19	4
57:3 60:7	3:20 4:3,11	3:8,14,21 4:4,8	4 20:10
	2492 2:14,18	4:12	403 7:3
2	3:7,13,20 4:7	2595 2:15,19	5
2 47:19 48:3	4:11	3:8,14,21 4:4,8	5 42:6 47:20
55:9	2493 4:10	4:12	500 7:3
20 14:6			300 /.3

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Sign		00000	444	
600 6:10 90391 3:2 33:25 actions 19:10 32:8 33:21 advice 36:8 7 90406 3:12 58:7,10 advise 12:25 advise 12:25 7 48:16 9057 2:13 actuall 28:24 advise 13:2 8 90554 3:12 39:943:16 43:7,18 80 14:4 90556 3:12 39:943:16 43:7,18 90033 3:19 90044 3:19 90044 3:19 90044 3:19 90044 3:19 90066 3:18 able 37:11 address 17:15 30:22 affiliate's 30:22 afford	53703 6:11	90383 3:3	acres 14:1,2	advancing
600 6:10 90397 3:4 actions 19:10 32:8 33:21 advice 36:8 7 48:16 90406 3:12 58:7,10 actual 24:25 advise 12:25 75 31:10,16 90570 2:13 actual 24:25 advised 13:2 80 5:12 90554 3:12 31:23 34:25 advised 13:2 80 14:4 90556 3:12 39:9 43:16 43:7,18 affect 11:17 90033 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 adfiliate's 90044 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adm 8:22 adfiliate's 90046 3:18 able 37:11 absent 42:7 54:6,15 addressing 30:22 affiliate's 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 36:11 41:22 32:23 all:4,12,13 32:11 adjourn 57:22 affiliate's 90219 3:6 25:22 30:13 36:11	6			
6th 5:5 56:2,4 90397 3:4 actions 19:10 32:8 33:21 advice 36:8 7 90426 3:12 58:7,10 advice 36:8 75 31:10,16 90472 3:2 actually 28:23 advised 13:2 80 5:12 90554 3:12 31:23 34:25 advised 13:2 80 14:4 90556 3:12 39:94 43:16 43:7,18 90033 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 addresting 43:110 90044 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 addressing 31:10 affiliate's 30:22 addressing 30:22 affiliate's 30:22	600 6:10			
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7 48:16 75 31:10,16 780 5:12 90554 3:12 90555 3:12 90556 3:12 90556 3:12 90033 3:19 90034 3:19 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90060 3:18 90061 3:17 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 90219 3:7 90120 3:11 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90305 3:12 90306 3:18 90806	-	90406 3:12	32:8 33:21	advice 36:8
75 31:10,16 90507 2:13 actually 28:24 advisory 59:14 80 14:4 90555 3:12 39:9 43:16 43:7,18 affect 11:17 90033 3:19 90044 7:4 60:4 affected 21:5 31:10 affected 21:5 31:10 affected 21:5 31:10 affiliate's 30:22 address 17:15 30:22 affiliate's 30:22 afford 50:22 51:24 52:13 32:13 32:14 32:11 advenue 57:22 affiliate's 30:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:14 32:11 afford 50:2 51:24 52:13 <t< th=""><th></th><th>90426 3:12</th><th>58:7,10</th><th>advise 12:25</th></t<>		90426 3:12	58:7,10	advise 12:25
780 5:12 90554 3:12 31:23 34:25 advocating 80 14:4 90556 3:12 39:9 43:16 43:7,18 90033 3:19 98104 7:4 60:4 affected 21:5 90044 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 add 52:18 57:5 address 30:22 affiliate's 90060 3:18 ablity 26:20 43:18 able 37:11 absent 42:7 54:6,15 affiliates 32:13 32:18,23 37:8 affiliate's 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 abundance 32:12 32:12 afford 50:2 affiliation 57:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 affiliation 57:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2		90472 3:2	actual 24:25	advised 13:2
8 90555 3:12 39:9 43:16 43:7,18 80 14:4 90556 3:12 53:5 55:18 affect et 11:17 9 a adam 8:22 31:10 90033 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 31:10 90044 3:19 acron 8:25 address 17:15 30:22 90060 3:18 able 37:11 able 37:11 addressing 32:18,23 37:8 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 abundance 32:11 adjourn 55:16 affiliate's 3022 affiliate's 30:22 affiliate's 30:14 42:7 54:6,15 addressing 29:23 affiliation 9019 2:6 abuse 4:3 14:5 32:11 adjourn 55:16 55:18 11:4,12,13 90219 3:7 36:11 41:22 34:19 accepted 31:2 adler 43:8,9 adler 43:24 agenda 11:6 ager	· ·	90507 2:13	actually 28:24	advisory 59:14
80 14:4 90556 3:12 53:5 55:18 affect 11:17 90033 3:19 a.w. 9:12 adam 8:22 31:10 90044 3:19 a.w. 9:12 add 52:18 57:5 add 52:18 57:5 30:22 90060 3:18 ablity 26:20 43:18 able 37:11 absent 42:7 54:6,15 affiliate's 30:22 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 abundance 29:23 addressing 57:22 23:19 abundance 20:2 22:19 abundance 32:11 adjourn 55:16 55:18 affiliate's 90209 3:3 36:11 41:22 36:11 41:22 adequate 32:11 affiliation 90219 3:7 abundance 30:21 affiliation 57:22 90219 3:7 abuse 4:3 14:5 55:18 adjourn 55:16 55:18 a1:4,12,13 90220 3:11 36:11 41:22 accepted 31:15 32:25 admission 90242 3:6 accurate 31:7 61:4 <t< th=""><th>780 5:12</th><th>90554 3:12</th><th>31:23 34:25</th><th>advocating</th></t<>	780 5:12	90554 3:12	31:23 34:25	advocating
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9 98104 7:4 60:4 adam affected 21:5 31:10 90033 3:19 a.w. 9:12 aaron 8:25 ability 26:20 address 17:15 30:22 30:22 affiliate's 30:22 afford 50:2 5:13 affiliate's 30:22 afford 50:2 5:12 affiliate's 30:22 afford 50:2 5:13 affiliate's 30:22 afford 30:22 afford 30:22 afford 30:23 afford 30:23 afford 30:23 afford 30:23 afford 30:24 afford 30:24 afford 30:24 afford	80 14:4	90556 3:12	53:5 55:18	affect 11:17
90033 3:19 a addm 8:22 31:10 90034 3:19 a.w. 9:12 add 52:18 57:5 30:22 90044 3:19 ability 26:20 address 17:15 39:17 40:21 affiliate's 30:22 90066 3:18 able 37:11 able 37:11 addressing 57:22 affiliates 32:18,23 37:8 affiliation 90067 6:18 able 37:11 absent 42:7 54:25 addressing 57:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 61:4 afford 52:2 afford 50:2 60:2<		98104 7:4	60:4	affected 21:5
90034 3:19 90044 3:19 90060 3:18 90066 3:18 90067 6:18 90068 3:18 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 54:25 90161 3:17 9019 2:6 90209 3:3 90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90304 3:6 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 a.W. 9:12 add 52:18 57:5 address 17:15 39:17 40:21 addressing 39:17 40:21 adequate 32:11 adjourn 55:16 55:18 adjourned 56:2 60:9 adler 43:8,9 admission 32:25 admission 32:25 admission 32:24 ago 32:5 agree 20:18 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:6,0,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:6,0,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:12 23:12 Accepted 31:6 Accepted 31:6 Accepted 31:6 Accepted 3	_	a	adam 8:22	31:10
90044 3:19 aaron 8:25 ability 26:20 43:18 add 52:18 57:5 30:22 affiliates 32:13 30:22 affiliates 32:13 30:22 affiliates 32:13 30:22 affiliates 32:13 32:18,23 37:8 affiliation 57:22 affiliation 57:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 affermoon 11:3 11:4,12,13 13:15 18:5 19:6 agenda 11:4,12,13 13:15 18:5 19:6 agenda 11:6 agenda 12:6 agenda 12:6 agenda 12:2 agenda 12:2 agenda 12:6 agenda 12:2		aw 0.17	9:22	affiliate's
90060 3:18 ability 26:20 43:18 address 17:15 affiliates 32:13 32:18,23 37:8 90067 6:18 able 37:11 absent 42:7 54:6,15 affiliation 57:22 afford 50:2 52:24 52:22 afford 50:2 afford 50:2 57:22 afford 50:2 afford 50:2 57:22 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 51:4 55:18 adjourned 56:2 60:9 adler 43:18 43:18 adjourned 56:2 60:9 adler 43:18 agenda 11:6 ageresive 32:21 ageresive 34:22 ago 32			add 52:18 57:5	30:22
90066 3:18 90067 6:18 90068 3:18 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 29:23 90161 3:17 9019 2:6 90209 3:3 90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 9034 3:6 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:42 20373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 30373 3:42 3:12 3:12			address 17:15	affiliates 32:13
90067 6:18 90068 3:18 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 54:25 90161 3:17 9019 2:6 90209 3:3 90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:4 20373 3:12			39:17 40:21	32:18,23 37:8
90068 3:18 90111 4:6 7:2 23:19 absent 42:7 90161 3:17 9019 2:6 90209 3:3 90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90244 3:6 90304 3:6 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90373 3:4 90373 3:12 acknowledged 23:12 absent 42:7 54:25 abundance 20:2 22:19 abuse 4:3 14:5 25:22 30:13 adequate 32:11 adjourn 55:16 55:18 adjourned 56:2 60:9 admission 32:25 admission 32:25 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 ago 32:5 agree 20:18 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3			54:6,15	affiliation
90111 4:6 7:2 abundance 29:23 adequate 32:11 afford 50:2 51:24 52:1 afford 50:2 <t< th=""><th></th><th></th><th>addressing</th><th>57:22</th></t<>			addressing	57:22
23:19 abundance 32:11 32:11 32:11 adequate 32:11 afternoon 11:3 11:4,12,13 11:4,12,13 13:15 18:5 19:6 11:4,12,13 13:15 18:5 19:6 </th <th></th> <th></th> <th>29:23</th> <th>afford 50:2</th>			29:23	afford 50:2
23:19 abundance 32:11 afternoon 11:3 90161 3:17 abuse 4:3 14:5 11:4,12,13 13:15 18:5 90209 3:3 36:11 41:22 accepted 31:15 36:11 41:22 adjourned 56:2 60:9 agenda 11:6 agenda 11:6 aggregate 25:21 26:5,18 aggregate 25:21 26:5,18 aggressive 34:22 aggressive 34:22 aggressive 34:22 aggressive 32:24 adrian 10:6 agree 20:18 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:25 23:5 33:15 33:15 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 33:14 36:11 41:4			adequate	51:24 52:1
9010 2:6 3:17 90209 3:3 3:3 90219 3:7 36:11 41:22 90220 3:11 36:11 41:22 90232 3:12 accepted 31:15 90242 3:6 36:11 41:22 90294 3:6 accounting 31:2 90304 3:6 accurate 31:7 90329 3:5 achieve 45:14 90354 3:5 achieve 45:14 90364 3:5 achieved 25:14 90373 3:4 achieving 23:8 90373 3:4 acknowledged 23:12 31:2 admission 32:24 admission 32:24 ago 32:5 admission 32:24 ago 32:5 admission 32:24 agree 20:18 achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 23:12			_	afternoon 11:3
9019 2:6 90209 3:3 90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 acknowledged 23:12 30363 3:5 90373 3:4 20378 3:12 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30373 3:4 30374 3:12 30374 3:12 30374 3:12 30375 3:12 30375 3:12 30375 3:12			adjourn 55:16	11:4,12,13
90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90305 3:5 90354 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 accounting 31:2 accurate 31:7 accurate 31:7 achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 33:14				13:15 18:5
90219 3:7 90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90305 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 30:11 31:2 accounting 31:2 accurate 31:7 61:4 achieve achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 acknowledged 33:15 acknowledged 33:14 30:12 admission 32:24 ageressive 32:24 agree 20:18 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 33:14 33:14			adjourned	19:6
90220 3:11 90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 33:14 adder 43:8,9 admission 32:25 admissions 32:24 adrian 10:6 advanced 33:15 advancements 33:15 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3				agenda 11:6
90232 3:12 90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90379 3:12 admission 32:25 admissions 32:24 admissions 32:24 adrian 10:6 advanced 33:15 advanced 33:15 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3 38:17 39:3 34:19 accounting 32:25 admissions 32:24 adrian 10:6 33:15 acknowledged 23:12		_	adler 43:8,9	
90242 3:6 90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 32:25 admissions 32:24 ago 32:24 ago 32:24 agree 20:18 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 33:14 33:14			admission	
90294 3:6 90304 3:6 90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 admissions 34:22 adrian 10:6 advanced 21:3,6,18,19 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 33:14 33:14			32:25	,
90304 3:6 90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 00378 3:12 accurate 31:7 61:4 achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 23:12 32:24 adrian 10:6 advanced 33:15 advancements 33:15 32:24 adrian 10:6 advanced 33:15 33:15 33:14 32:24 adrian 10:6 33:15 33:15 33:17 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3	90294 3:6			
90329 3:5 90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 001:4 achieve 45:14 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 23:12 adrian 10:6 advanced 33:15 advancements 33:14 21:25 22:17 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3	90304 3:6			
90336 3:5 90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 achieved 25:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 23:12 advanced 33:15 advancements 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15	90329 3:5			
90354 3:5 90364 3:5 90373 3:4 90378 3:12 achieved 23:14 achieving 23:8 acknowledged 23:12 33:15 advancements 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15	90336 3:5			
90364 3:5 90373 3:4 00378 3:12 acknowledged 23:12 advancements 33:14 23:5 35:5 38:2 38:17 39:3	90354 3:5			
90373 3:4 acknowledged 23:12 33:14 38:17 39:3	90364 3:5			
00270 2.12 23:12	90373 3:4			
	90378 3:12	23:12		
				.5.10 00.20

60:3	30:23 31:21	applicable	assert 22:7
agreeable	analogous	22:6	asserted 18:20
37:25	58:18,18	applied 16:3	42:25
agreed 14:3	andrew 3:11	27:15	asserting 20:24
21:12	8:7 9:20 10:12	appreciate	assess 40:15
agreement 2:8	angeles 6:18	29:24	assets 26:10,14
16:13,16,18	ann 9:1	approach	43:12 44:16,17
18:17 24:22	anne 10:1	33:10	45:10
26:3,23 28:19	announce	appropriate	assist 23:8
33:16 49:1	24:23	14:24	associated 37:5
51:16	answer 34:4	approval 18:10	58:6
ahead 11:10	58:15	approve 15:22	assume 15:22
22:21 24:4	anticipate	approved	15:23 17:22
36:19,24 39:21	19:17	18:23	26:3 34:12
43:5 53:19	anybody 11:10	approving 2:8	48:1
akin 43:8	13:5 18:3,22	approximately	assuming
allard 7:23	52:18 54:17	13:25	30:18 36:2
allowable	anything's	archdiocese	attached 20:9
47:22	26:16	57:22 58:1	24:15
allowance	anyway 40:2	argue 13:14	attempts 27:9
11:16	42:7	19:4 22:24	attend 34:15
allowed 12:4	apologize	argued 50:25	attention 29:21
alternative	23:18 54:21	arielle 8:15	30:1
29:5 49:11	apparently	arrowood 32:5	attorney 2:4
51:17 56:23	34:16	32:5 58:2 59:8	5:4 12:24 13:3
alternatives	appeal 12:18	arrowood's	attorneys 5:11
28:11 51:15	12:21 13:1	26:20	5:18 6:2,9,16
52:4	28:15,16	asked 25:4,5	7:2,9,16
amala 4:6 7:1,6	appealing	25:19 30:7	authority
23:18,19 24:6	12:12	38:15,25 46:8	48:20
35:20 37:1,13	appeals 12:17	46:12 52:12	authorized
37:15,15 39:15	appeared	53:6	24:18
amend 12:9	34:15	asking 24:11	automatic
american 41:2	appearing	41:19 45:14	19:12
amicus 50:14	30:18	50:23	automatically
amount 16:2	appellate	aspects 30:24	52:16
26:5,11 29:14	28:16 53:17		

availability	51:3,6,20,24	56:6 57:8	bridge 60:5
55:10	52:1 55:13,16	believes 38:11	briefs 50:14
available 55:21	55:22 56:6,9	belongs 47:13	bring 17:19
57:2	57:4,6 58:5,19	belts 32:19	brings 23:16
avenue 5:12	58:21,22,22	benefit 59:13	24:8
average 30:25	60:10	59:17	brittany 9:5
31:6	bankruptcies 20.12	benjamin 10:4	bross 3:17 8:1
avoid 23:10	39:13	berringer 7:24	brothers 57:20
52:25 54:1	bankruptcy	best 32:10 41:4	57:23
awaiting 50:17	1:1,12,23 2:7	better 27:8	bsa 45:4
50:18	27:9,11 35:7	28:1 36:18	bucheit 8:2
award 48:10	35:13 39:12	59:20	budget 58:4
48:11	42:12,13 47:22	beyond 52:14	build 45:23
awarded 59:2	48:15	big 31:20 39:4	49:14 50:1
aware 20:6	bare 31:11	bigger 32:12	buildings 14:3
38:5	baseball 53:22	38:23 39:8	bunin 8:3
b	basic 11:6	billions 31:23	burden 50:6
b 1:21 7:24	basically 38:1	bishop 45:9	burns 6:8,13
8:12 10:4	basis 22:1 36:4	biswas 10:7	19:6,7,16,19
31:23 42:6	36:14	blocks 25:18	19:22 20:2,21
back 18:21	battle 38:21	26:23	21:1,4,11,19
24:25 29:16,25	bayside 7:11	blvd 6:17	22:3,9,12,19
35:13 38:10	bear 56:10	bodnarek 7:25	22:21,22 36:17
40:12,16 42:2	beautiful 13:22	boom 36:21	business 45:8
42:18 56:12,13	becoming	borrowed	buyer 17:7
background	36:10	49:19	buying 17:10
16:24 39:23	beginning 25:7	boston 5:6	c
bair 6:8	45:7	boswell 43:10	c 5:1 8:24 11:1
ball 5:22 6:1	behalf 2:13 3:2	bought 17:11	30:10 61:1,1
17:3,3,8,10,15	3:11,17 4:2,6	bowling 1:13	ca 6:18
17:21,23 18:2	13:16 17:18	box 57:11	cakewalk 32:1
18:6 23:1,5,15	19:4 30:14	boy 51:5 53:14	32:4
35:25 45:18,19	believe 11:16	58:23 59:15,18	calendar 11:8
46:8,12,15	13:23 16:1,10	boys 44:25	13:12 54:13
47:22 48:1,7	16:11,12,20	brenda 10:6	55:19,20,24
48:13,21 49:3	29:19 37:17	brett 9:9	56:13 57:5
50:5,12,21,23	43:13 49:5		30.13 37.3

calhoun 8:4	cases 27:15,16	31:24 33:20	claimant 2:13
call 34:14	27:17,19,20,23	40:12,15 52:3	3:2,3,3,3,3,4,4
40:11,19	27:25 28:24,24	60:1,1	3:4,5,5,5,6,6,6
called 30:8	30:13 33:4,9	certified 61:3	3:7,17,18,18
57:20	33:10,19,21,22	chambers	3:18,18,19,19
camdem 30:14	33:23,23 34:1	55:10 56:7	4:6 5:4 7:2
camden 30:15	34:6,11,17,20	chances 33:12	23:19 49:4
47:12	34:20,25 35:6	changed 47:8	59:21
camera 35:20	35:9,9,11,11	55:24	claimants 3:11
carrier 39:5,6	35:12 36:9,12	channeled 31:5	19:21,25 20:12
44:1	36:13,13 37:2	chapter 18:15	20:19,24 21:8
carriers 32:7	37:24 38:11,16	48:16,18,19	22:1 23:13,24
44:22	38:19,19,22	charles 8:12	37:16 41:22
case 1:3 12:4	39:2,7,8,11,25	9:10	48:13 51:4,9
12:13 14:9,10	40:7 41:1,11	charlton 10:8	claims 12:16
14:19 15:8,18	41:14,19 42:1	checks 37:7	14:22 18:20
15:23 17:22	42:20 44:20	chelsie 10:3	21:10 22:7,13
18:16,18 25:19	45:2 46:16	child 36:11	22:17 25:22
26:5,7 27:5,6	47:10,18,24	childcare	26:5 27:8
27:10 28:7,11	48:22 49:16	57:23	29:14 30:23
29:6 30:14	50:3,4,6 51:8,9	chris 9:14	31:3,3,8,9
31:25 32:22	53:4,6 57:12	christian 57:20	35:15 45:9
35:7,21 36:7	57:14 59:2	57:23	47:6
37:14 39:2,4	cash 49:19	churches 47:17	claire 8:8
40:25 41:3,22	cassidy 8:5	cinching 32:19	claro 30:8,12
41:25 42:10,13	catalina 9:25	circles 26:9,13	30:18,19
43:7,11,24	cate 8:6	35:14	cleaner 39:22
44:10,18,25	catholic 1:7	circuit 53:13	clear 20:13
45:5,21 46:7	cause 2:3	53:14	24:1 28:12
46:16,24 47:3	caution 20:3	circumstances	48:18 55:4
48:9,17,17,18	22:20	32:10	clearly 48:16
48:19 49:4,13	cave 24:18	ciriello 8:7	50:15
50:1 51:23	centre 1:7	claim 11:15,20	client 11:18,19
52:10,14,17,25	certain 30:24	11:25 12:7,19	12:11,18,24,25
54:7 57:20	certainly 24:16	22:13 30:12,24	13:1,2,3 56:24
59:14	26:11,19 27:3	31:5 46:19,22	client's 11:25
	27:21 28:9	47:15	12:19
	77	ral Solutions	

[close - control] Page 6

close 25:15	25:6,12,25	concluded	consider 33:20
42:11 47:16,17	26:3,24 27:19	60:12	51:22 52:8
closer 41:18	29:12 30:8,15	condition 58:1	consideration
closes 18:15	30:15 40:12	confer 55:22	49:4
closing 17:5	43:25 44:3	conference 2:1	considering
18:12	46:9,12 47:12	23:17 24:9	27:22 52:7
cna 44:1,1	49:2 51:16	37:17	consistent
cochran 7:1	54:22,25 55:2	conferences	31:25
cognizant 38:8	57:17 59:14	34:16	construct
collective	60:1	confidential	52:13 59:16
26:14	committee's	54:10	60:5
collectively	15:21 31:13	confirm 23:21	constructive
28:18 41:25	committees	24:7 55:21	60:3
columbia 7:3	44:20	confirmation	consultation
come 17:24	common 28:24	44:6 47:25	27:19
26:2,13 28:1	companies	48:6,8 50:2	consummated
28:19 29:25	21:20 22:14	57:13,19,21	53:16
35:13 39:9	39:3,9 44:24	58:5	contacting
40:16 42:2,18	58:17	confirmed	27:22
44:5 49:9 51:1	company 30:8	15:19,24 16:4	contemplated
52:13 56:13	57:21	41:15 48:23	14:16 15:3
58:14,20	compensation	51:23 53:4	55:6
comfortable	59:2	57:14	contested 19:2
23:6	compensatory	connection	context 37:2
coming 26:23	47:19 48:11	26:21	47:10 51:23
52:7	competition	consensual	continue 32:21
comment 37:2	44:2	24:24 25:18	32:25 33:1
39:24 59:25	completely	31:5 36:4 53:9	49:13 59:10
comments	21:6	53:13	continued 14:3
29:18 37:21,21	concept 33:19	consensually	contracts 17:6
37:23 54:24	35:22 36:7	54:2	17:13,16 18:9
committee 2:9	37:14 40:16	consensus	contribute
5:11 6:9,16	conception 6:2	45:23 49:15	15:10 26:12
13:14,16,17	concern 20:21	50:1	contributions
17:17 19:3,5,7	concerned	consent 42:7	52:24
20:3,13 21:23	42:11	conserving	control 19:11
23:12,24 25:5		49:10	21:23 22:1

		1	1
coordinating	14:25 15:2,7	53:23 54:3,12	damages 47:20
27:23	15:12,16,22	54:17,19 55:3	47:20 48:12,16
corbett 7:10	16:5,8,14,19	55:6,15,17,23	daniel 2:13
corinne 5:22	16:21 17:1,7,9	56:8,10 57:2,5	data 36:10
58:22	17:13,21 18:1	57:7 58:10,20	date 15:12,15
cornell 8:8	18:3,14,22	58:24 59:14,25	16:15,19 25:2
correct 12:10	19:1,9,15,19	60:6	25:4,9 51:7,12
14:20 22:2,8	19:24 20:8,23	court's 19:8	52:12,13 55:16
34:3,14 53:11	21:3,6,16,25	23:21 24:22	55:18,21 56:2
correctly 23:1	22:5,10,16,21	55:20	56:20 61:25
51:22	22:22,24 23:3	courts 50:16	dates 56:3,7
corrine 17:3	23:11,16,22	cover 59:7	davenport
costs 58:6	24:8,12,14	coverage 31:22	43:9
counsel 19:7	25:1 27:9,13	32:7 39:10	day 5:17 17:3
26:4,7 27:20	27:20,22 28:14	42:25 58:3,7	24:14 31:2,15
34:14,23 36:6	28:21 29:19	covering 46:21	34:16 44:15,15
39:17 40:11,13	30:4,9,11 33:6	cox 8:9	47:2 58:22
40:18,23 41:9	33:8,17 34:4,5	created 14:13	days 25:6
43:7 45:3	34:13,18,23,24	creative 57:7	38:18 49:25,25
58:24 59:14	35:3,13 36:6	59:6,9,23	59:9
count 44:19	36:12,15,17,22	creditor 7:9	deadline 16:8
counteroffers	37:13,18 38:5	creditor's	16:10 24:23
43:20	38:8,11 39:15	47:12	38:6 46:3 47:5
country 43:14	39:17,18,25	creditors 4:3	deal 31:20
43:15 61:21	40:1,4,5,7,13	crossed 33:19	32:16 38:9
county 17:9	40:18,22,23	crosstalk 34:2	48:24 51:18
27:23	41:6,8,8 42:12	current 43:8	57:9
course 46:21	42:16,18 44:8	currently	deals 44:4
58:2	44:10 45:3,18	11:22 12:13	debate 46:22
court 1:1,12	46:6,10,13	31:9	debtor 1:9 5:18
11:2,5,13,19	47:18,23,24	cut 32:17 43:5	19:4 25:13,24
11:22,22,23,23	48:5,8,14 49:1	d	30:19,24 34:10
11:24,24 12:2	50:4,10,10,20	d 11:1	36:1 48:17
12:6,9,11,14	50:22,22,25	daly 8:10	53:5 55:1 57:2
12:15,16,21,24	51:5,14,16,21	damage 48:10	debtor's 26:10
13:4,8,10,20	51:25 52:2	48:11	43:7
14:1,7,13,16	53:3,12,17,19	70.11	
		ral Calutions	1

[debtors - doing]

114 27.5	1 4	10 10 21 10 20	1.
debtors 25:5	department	18:19,21 19:20	discussion
26:11	7:15	20:1,4,9,10,12	35:23
december	described	20:17,20,25	discussions
50:19,22,25	55:14	21:9,9,12,13	33:2
decide 21:17	describes 37:6	22:13,14,17,25	dismiss 17:22
41:3 43:23	describing	23:14 24:3,12	25:3 26:25
56:10	58:6	27:1,6,19 28:3	27:4,5 28:6,15
decided 51:1	description	28:10 29:2,15	31:17 42:13
decision 12:12	37:23	30:14 31:4,15	54:24 56:22
12:17 19:8	deserve 49:5	31:19,20 32:13	60:2
35:5	designated	32:18,23 33:22	dismissal 29:5
dedicated	25:2	33:24,24 34:7	52:5,6 55:7
59:23	destries 8:12	35:23,23 36:3	dismissed 14:9
defendant 34:7	details 13:4	37:6,8 41:24	14:10,19 18:16
defendants	diego 43:7	42:13 43:1,6,9	18:18 35:8
37:25 55:25	differences	43:14,14,15,17	46:7
defenses 39:10	43:12	43:24 44:3	dismissing
42:25 58:3	different 25:13	45:13 48:22	52:17
definitely	29:22 43:11,12	51:22 58:11	dispute 29:14
59:18	44:24 57:25	diocese's 12:6	distinct 27:4
deliver 23:2,13	difficult 57:8	12:19 14:22	distinguishes
demand 19:20	difficulties	19:8 20:9,18	19:9
19:25 20:11,17	37:5	22:11 30:22	distribution
20:20,24 21:8	difficulty 57:9	32:10	25:23 42:6
23:13 24:4	dine 5:15 13:14	direction 34:13	48:1
39:1,1	13:15,15,22	disagreement	distributions
demands 19:13	14:2,10,15,20	45:15	59:21
20:4,17 36:1	15:1,6,8,14,21	disallowed	district 1:2
demonstrating	16:1,7,10,16	31:4	27:13 40:5
50:15	16:20,22 18:24	disclosure 54:7	50:10,11,16
denied 23:14	55:18	discovery 23:9	doc 2:1,4,10,14
24:3	diocese 1:7	26:19 32:5	2:17 3:7,12,19
dennehy 8:11	2:10 11:25	36:2 54:8	4:3,6,10
deny 34:1	12:5 13:5,18	discuss 56:24	docket 11:9
denying 23:22	14:5,21,23,25	discussed	24:13
25:3	15:1,4,10,20	47:11	doing 32:18
	16:1 17:2,4,25		35:6 47:16

Page 8

[doing - file] Page 9

	I		
49:20 58:9	effectively	example 27:18	extent 23:9
dollar 48:10	14:20 16:2	44:25 59:12	extra 37:12
donato 10:9	efforts 37:12	exceeds 29:14	extracting
donors 49:21	eight 49:25	32:14	57:24
door 42:12	either 29:7	except 52:23	f
48:12	46:3 56:20,22	excuse 29:10	f 1:21 61:1
doty 6:10	elevator 40:10	exhausted	facetiously
doubt 25:10	elizabeth 8:6	46:14	23:4
dowd 7:8,13	emergence	exhaustively	facilities 57:24
40:20,24,24	46:24 47:10	41:16	facing 49:6
41:6,7	emily 10:8	exist 31:4	fact 16:3 29:25
draft 18:9 46:9	employed	exists 31:9	31:2,20
drafted 26:25	30:19	exit 42:11	factors 53:14
draw 26:12	enable 17:17	expect 51:1,18	fair 48:21
drawn 35:14	32:20	52:3	fairest 41:3
dreadful 49:12	entered 25:3	expectation	familiar 27:10
drew 42:4	entry 2:7	28:25	59:1
driscoll 8:13	eric 8:14 9:19	expected 17:20	far 29:14 42:10
drumming	erik 9:23	expense 23:10	50:17
49:21	escrow 16:2	59:8	fasano 8:14
dylan 8:5	essentially	expenses 58:11	fashion 17:24
e	14:11 35:12	experience	fateful 47:2
e 1:21,21 5:1,1	establish 41:2	41:10,11	favor 31:11
6:10 8:2,18	established	expert 36:8	41:1,5
11:1,1 61:1	14:17 15:9,11	expertise 30:18	feasible 49:22
eager 18:9	estate's 19:10	experts 36:9	federal 2:7
earlier 25:19	estimate 30:25	38:18,21	28:21 39:25
38:24	estimation	expired 12:22	40:1
	25:23 42:3,6	explore 40:13	feel 34:17
early 35:5 44:22 47:4	everybody	explored 60:4	43:17
easier 35:10	22:16 36:18	exposure 29:2	
ecf 11:9 13:13	43:21 44:23	46:20	feeling 42:23 feels 35:2
ecro 1:25	53:22 56:12	expression	feldshon 8:15
ederer 6:1	57:10	32:11	figures 26:6
edges 32:17	everyone's	extension	file 26:25 31:18
effective 16:18	18:9	50:23	54:23 55:2
51:7			56:22 60:1
J1.1			30.22 00.1

[filed - group] Page 10

(0) 1 2 12 2 1	0 , 10 10	(0.7	1 22 12
filed 2:12 3:1	format 13:10	gaps 60:6	goal 33:12
3:10,16 4:1,5	former 19:12	garabedian 5:3	goes 14:11
11:15 13:14	forth 11:14	5:8 8:17 11:8	20:14 48:9
14:8 23:19,23	53:14	11:11,11,14,21	goffe 8:19
23:25 24:17	forward 14:11	12:1,4,8,10,13	going 11:5
41:24 50:14	17:19,23 18:10	12:20,23 13:2	13:14,23,24
filing 24:19	21:15 29:6	13:9	19:4 22:24
60:4	33:6 51:17	gavel 36:20,23	25:6 26:25
final 24:21	52:5 59:13,19	general 27:11	27:2 28:5,9,12
financial 26:20	four 32:7	54:10	28:17 29:16
58:1	fr 8:14	george 8:4	33:6 34:10,11
find 43:16 57:8	frame 32:12,15	gerber 8:18	35:20 37:8,19
57:8 59:23	45:11	geremia 5:23	38:2 45:8,8
fine 24:5 46:23	frank 9:13	25:7 47:1	50:4,13 51:17
56:20,25	frankly 32:7	germaine 13:6	51:18 52:15
fingers 37:9	39:12 41:1	getting 33:12	54:23 56:25
firm 44:20	free 58:14	47:3 49:19	59:12
first 11:7 27:5	freight 39:6	53:16	good 11:2,4,12
31:2 39:1	friday 50:14	giant 23:3 43:3	11:13 13:15
42:13 44:7	front 15:2 52:6	give 40:17	18:5 19:6 30:4
fit 32:17	frost 10:1	54:19 55:23	38:17,20 39:11
floated 49:22	frozen 56:11	56:5	57:7
floor 5:5,12	fruit 32:6	given 26:6	gorrepati
flying 39:19	full 39:6	38:13 45:6	10:10
focus 29:17	fully 34:25	56:7,23	graft 49:15
30:7	function 30:20	glenn 1:22	grant 50:16
focused 26:15	fund 49:13	global 44:21	granted 13:8
47:5	funds 15:18,19	59:7	53:10
fogel 8:16	15:24 16:2,3	go 11:10 14:23	great 34:6
followed 27:14	18:20	18:20 22:21	52:11,22
following	furman 27:12	24:4,25 28:12	green 1:13
24:20	further 35:13	28:14 36:19,24	greg 7:20
forcing 39:9	future 18:15	38:10 39:4,20	52:20
forebear 60:4	g	39:21 40:12	grossly 31:1
foregoing 61:3	g 7:8,13 8:3	42:14 43:5	group 55:25
forgive 50:18	11:1	45:25 48:11	56:1
	11.1	52:10 53:19	
		1014	

[guess - included]

Page 11

guess 24:17	heard 11:10	14:10 15:6,15	hyde 4:25 61:3
49:24	13:5 18:4,23	17:4,8,24 18:5	61:8
guessing 36:5	31:16 35:25	18:24,25 19:6	hypothetically
guide 16:12	37:13 40:23	19:22 20:2,5	35:8 47:19
guides 28:25	41:9 46:20	21:1,11,19	i
h	54:17	22:4,19 23:1,6	iain 9:12
hand 40:20	hearing 2:3,6	23:15,18,18	idea 38:11,17
handle 27:8	2:12,17 3:1,10	24:6 29:10,13	46:16 48:2,24
28:1	3:16 4:1,5,10	29:24 34:3,9	49:22 54:14
handled 45:2	37:23 38:13	35:19 36:20	ideas 42:8,9
handling 34:21	40:19 44:6	37:4,15,17	identify 54:20
hands 56:19	55:9,13,17	38:4,15,23,25	illustrating
hang 36:15	56:23 57:1	39:7,14,16,24	38:20
39:18	60:8	40:12,24 41:7	imagination
hanging 32:6	heier 8:20	42:15 43:6	32:6
happen 16:9	held 14:18 15:4	45:17,19 46:1	imagine 50:13
47:12 58:5	15:20,25 20:14	46:4,8,15	immaculate
happened	help 15:17 43:3	48:13,21 49:16	6:2
55:12 57:13	60:5	49:18,19 50:3	immediate
happening	helped 49:20	50:8,12 51:12	20:5
36:3	59:6	52:1,20 53:18	immediately
happens 14:9	helpful 38:12	53:20,25 54:5	24:12
17:22 18:14	38:17,24 54:9	54:15,18,23	impediment
happy 40:21	heuer 6:6	55:8,13 56:20	20:19,21 21:8
40:22 45:20	16:23,24 17:18	57:4,16 58:19	22:18
harbor 17:12	18:4,5,6,14,17	59:6,22 60:10	important 25:2
18:8	18:25	60:11	45:23
hard 19:18	hide 39:10	honor's 49:8	impression
25:20,20 26:2	high 35:15	hope 28:25	35:22
26:22 33:2	hit 25:15	hoping 52:7	improve 59:17
45:6	hogan 8:21	horowitz 8:22	imprudent
headed 34:13	hold 15:10,16	hulme 8:23	21:14
hear 17:1	holding 16:2	hybrid 2:3,6	include 33:23
24:16 37:20	hole 59:8	2:12,17 3:1,10	44:10
40:22 41:3	hon 1:22	3:16 4:1,5,10	included 25:9
56:15	honor 11:11	60:8	42:20,21 53:5
	13:6,15,17		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		ral Solutions	

[includes - know]

Page 12

			,
includes 24:20	46:22 48:11	involving	judge 1:23
34:7	49:17 51:8	30:13	20:6 21:13
including	54:6 57:14,21	iota 52:9	24:18 27:5,12
23:24 44:22	58:17 59:12,12	ireland 57:20	27:22 33:6,7
incorrectly	insured 20:5	island 43:17	34:15,19,24
15:17	insured's	issam 9:11	35:4,10 37:18
indicated 38:5	31:22	issue 25:22	38:1,4 42:13
40:14 55:10	insureds 20:22	29:22 38:23	43:8,9 44:4
indicating	insurer 22:8,10	48:3,15,24	46:25 50:18
24:18	22:11	54:7 58:11	judges 40:4
indiscernible	insurers 19:17	issues 22:23	jury 28:1 38:22
23:21 31:18	20:12,23 26:16	42:2 53:1 54:6	41:3 48:9
44:24 45:16	42:21,22,25	\mathbf{j}	justice 7:15
individual 39:2		i 2:13 10:2	k
informally	47:14 57:13	jacobs 8:24	k 9:19
60:3	intent 50:15	james 6:20	karen 5:15
information	interest 52:5	8:23 9:3,8 10:2	10:11 13:15
11:7	interested	29:11 54:21	katie 30:17
injunction	40:19 42:5	57:16	keep 17:6
19:9 33:5,11	interests 11:18	jason 4:6 7:6	41:19 53:23
33:13,25 34:1	interim 59:8	23:19 37:15	kennedy 7:25
injured 22:7	internal 18:13	javian 8:25	kind 38:3
ins 53:1	interrupt	jet 39:19	50:13
insider 53:21	33:17	jillian 8:11	kinds 58:3
insights 52:22	interrupted	job 38:20	kinsella 20:6
insolvent 48:17	35:17	39:11	21:13
instance 49:22	intransigent	john 7:24 8:2	know 14:8 24:4
insurable	44:24	8:10 9:15	26:2,2,9,15,17
47:21	invade 12:24	joinder 19:3	26:18,22,24
insurance 6:9	25:16	23:25 24:2	27:1,1,2,18,24
19:7,10 21:20	invariably	jones 5:10,17	28:4,14,18,21
21:22 22:14	56:3	6:15 13:16	29:3,16 30:4
26:15 32:1,2,3	invite 40:11	17:3 24:14	31:8 32:4
36:1 37:6 39:1	involved 26:7	29:11 34:16	33:21 34:5
39:3,9 42:2,18	involvement	58:22	35:1,1,2 36:4
43:3 44:13,16	58:13	jordan 4:2	36:22 37:4,5
44:17,23 45:2		.	39:16 40:6
	Varitant I ac		

•	•		C
41:4,15,18,20	leaves 43:2	little 11:7 28:5	low 32:6 35:15
41:20,20,21,23	54:3,4	49:10	m
41:23 42:8,19	led 28:8	living 41:25	m 8:9 9:3,22
42:22,24,24	ledanski 4:25	lloyd 17:12	ma 5:6
44:6,18 45:5	61:3,8	18:7	made 13:19
45:10,11,15,19	left 43:22	llp 5:10,17 6:8	16:13 20:13
46:16 47:6	49:11,25 58:17	6:15 8:21	27:10 28:12
48:14 49:5	legal 32:24	long 15:18,19	39:24 45:24
50:5,17 51:17	61:20	17:4 27:24	48:25 49:3,6
54:3,13 56:19	lender 59:7	43:17 52:6	59:21
57:7 58:23,25	lengthy 55:24	longer 16:18	madison 6:11
known 45:3	letter 24:11,12	51:10 55:20	magistrate
knows 30:5	24:14 27:2	look 12:2 24:25	24:18
49:20	29:15,17,20,25	31:21 32:9	main 49:16
kramer 9:1	30:2 31:1,23	35:3,16 38:1	major 26:22
kroeger 9:2	37:7 49:7,18	41:12 47:15	make 13:11
l	letters 19:20	55:23 58:4	20:17,17 22:13
1 9:2 10:6 30:10	19:25 20:11	looked 15:3	22:17 32:17
lack 25:13	23:2,13 24:4	29:19 41:12,16	35:4 39:1
land 13:24	liability 32:13	41:24 53:4	44:12 55:11
landscape 53:4	lift 19:2 20:7	55:19	59:25
language 16:12	20:12,14 23:23	looking 16:25	makes 31:20
lannigan 3:17	lifted 48:9	42:19	32:3
8:1	lifting 23:12	looks 56:14	making 20:19
lapse 57:19	33:20	los 6:18	20:24 21:8
large 28:24	likelihood	lose 36:12	22:13 23:6
48:10 52:25	42:23	losing 45:20	39:2
largely 27:13	likely 24:21	lot 30:2 31:7	managed 59:3
latest 44:19	31:18	34:25 35:10	mark 34:10
law 4:2 5:3 7:8	limited 36:14	36:8,8 39:13	43:3
22:6 26:4	limits 26:19	39:19 45:9,10	marsh 9:3
41:13 53:12	liquidation	51:6 57:18	martin 1:22
lawyers 57:8	27:12	58:16	8:3
lead 17:4 23:9	lis 17:15	lots 54:13	mass 27:15
34:18	lisa 9:17	loud 28:4	materially
leave 12:9	lists 41:14	lovells 8:21	11:17
34:23			

[matter - new] Page 14

1. 5	40.0	4 22 4	• 17.6
matter 1:5	mega 48:9	moment 33:4	moving 17:6
11:7 13:12	mention 37:22	33:18 54:14	17:16 18:10
19:1 55:14	mere 21:21	55:23	19:13 38:7
56:15	merson 4:2,2	money 14:23	39:11
matters 19:2	messed 44:13	15:9,10 36:8	multiple 27:16
33:5	met 25:24 29:8	47:3	mute 29:9,9
matthew 9:16	mg 1:3	monica 6:17	36:19
10:5	michael 7:8,13	months 41:17	myriad 30:25
maximize	8:21 9:5,7 10:5	moore 9:9,10	n
33:12	40:24	moriaty 10:11	n 5:1 8:23 11:1
mcmahon 9:4	michelle 9:4	morning 56:17	61:1
mcnally 30:17	miller 6:1	motion 2:3,6	name 30:9
mdl 27:13,15	million 47:19	2:12,17 3:1,10	54:19
28:24	47:20 48:3,10	3:16 4:1,5,10	named 33:21
mean 22:6	minarovich 9:6	11:8,17,22,23	33:21
24:13 26:7	mind 32:14	11:24 12:5	narrow 33:11
27:13 35:25	33:19	13:8,13,13	nasatir 9:12
40:1 42:24	mine 60:6	19:8 20:7 21:7	
50:5 52:14	mineola 61:23	21:12,18,19	
54:2	minimum	23:14,20 25:3	nasser 9:11
meant 34:12	31:12 49:3	26:24 28:10	nathaniel 7:23
52:13	59:21	31:17,19 33:25	ndas 49:20
mediate 35:13	minute 39:20	38:25 50:14	nearby 39:19
mediation 2:1	56:12	52:6,14 54:23	necessarily
25:16,17 26:21	miskell 9:7	55:2 56:22	52:3
27:3 28:8	misremembe	60:1,4	need 17:15
31:14 33:14	16:22	motions 11:16	37:10
37:10 43:19,19	missed 30:9	19:2,3 20:14	needs 46:13
43:20 45:15,24	mission 32:21	21:16 23:22,23	negotiated
47:7 49:15	mitchell 5:3,8	23:25 24:2,3	32:2
mediator's	8:17 9:5 11:11	motors 27:11	never 34:15
24:10,19 26:1	mode 46:3,23	27:11	36:22 45:24
mediators	51:23	move 17:18	49:6 51:19
24:16 37:12	model 44:22,23	21:15 29:6	55:6
meet 21:13	58:23,25	49:25 59:19	new 1:2,7,14
meetings 20:13	moffitt 9:8	moved 52:9	5:13,20 7:18
meetings 20.13	111011111 7.0	56:3	17:10 18:8,11
		50.5	36:10 45:24

[new - park] Page 15

55:2	objected 20:5	offering 31:21	ordered 32:5
newspaper	objection 12:6	offers 43:20	orders 44:5
30:3	12:19 13:7	office 7:8 52:21	osselaer 24:17
nice 13:20	20:4,10 24:3	53:23	oswald 9:13
41:14	31:3	office's 54:9	ought 29:22
nine 59:9	objections	offices 5:3	outcome 35:12
noise 39:19	11:20 12:17	oh 17:9 23:5	50:18,19 56:23
non 26:11	14:8 30:25	50:21	outlined 49:12
33:24 44:15,16	53:8	okay 17:21	outs 53:2
45:1,1 53:5,13	obtain 19:11	18:3,22 22:24	outside 27:9
59:12	21:23	23:16 24:8	overstated
nora 10:1	obviously	30:11 54:15,17	31:1
note 23:2	14:18 24:10	55:4,15 60:8	own 35:4 44:2
notes 13:11	25:11,14 54:10	old 61:21	р
34:10	58:9	omnibus 56:6	p 4:6 5:1,1 7:6
notice 52:15	occur 23:10	ones 23:24	11:1
notion 34:20	occurred 16:17	58:16	
36:13	october 1:16	ongoing 15:8	p.m. 56:24 57:3
november	24:13,14,23	open 15:2,18	pachulski 5:10
26:25 55:9,19	25:1,7,7,8,8,15	15:24 38:13	6:15 13:16
55:25 56:2,4,4	38:6,8 40:15	47:9 52:7 54:4	24:11 29:11
56:16,17 57:3	40:16 41:18	56:3,16,18	pacific 43:11
60:7	45:25 46:3,7	opening 43:15	page 20:10
number 27:25	47:1,5 49:7	opinion 48:18	paid 43:9 51:4
28:19 30:13	50:20 51:13,17	opportunity	papers 11:14
35:6 37:16	51:18 52:12,14	22:15	22:23
40:25 45:14	52:17 54:24	opposition	paragraph
numerous 19:3	60:2 61:25	19:4 33:11	20:10 24:19
ny 1:14 5:13,20	offer 30:22	opt 53:1,1,21	parameters
6:4 7:11,18	31:15 32:11	53:24	29:2
61:23	37:19 39:2,5	option 50:2	parish 33:22
0	45:24 47:7	order 2:3,8	34:2,8
o 1:21 11:1	49:4,5,6,15	12:18 13:10	parishes 26:10
30:10 61:1	55:1 59:16	18:10 23:13	28:2 29:3 43:2
object 11:25	offered 26:12	25:1,2,9 38:2	43:17 44:11
20:24 21:21	26:16 29:15	46:9 52:16	park 13:24
	35:6		Larra 19.2
	77 1	val Solutions	

[part - process] Page 16

	11	U.a. 7.1	
part 20:3	personally	pllc 7:1	premise 46:18
participation	38:16,23	plus 34:24	prepare 46:4
40:13	perspective	pm 1:17 60:13	prepared
parties 18:7	54:9	podium 58:20	27:25 35:5
22:7 24:20,23	pfau 7:1	point 15:4	44:7
31:5 32:2	phone 36:17	18:15 30:1	prepetition
33:24 38:7	phones 36:19	33:15 37:9	13:19 21:4
43:19 49:14	pick 35:9	39:7	present 7:22
52:5,23	picking 27:19	policies 19:10	22:15 37:19
party 33:24	27:20	19:11,16 21:22	presented 44:3
52:24 53:5	picture 32:12	22:2 26:18	presentment
patricia 9:6	32:13,14,17	policy 26:19	55:1
patrick 3:2	41:24 45:11	39:1	pretrial 34:22
9:24	piece 13:20,22	pondered 26:2	pretty 41:24
pattern 27:14	18:8,8 44:13	poorest 43:15	prevented
pay 29:20 30:1	piped 38:24	43:16	19:25
39:4,5,6 43:18	place 17:6,13	portion 17:11	prior 24:22
51:6	54:8	position 11:15	49:6
pencils 59:5	plaintiffs 37:24	31:14,24	privilege 12:25
pendens 17:15	59:3	positions 31:17	25:16
pending 11:16	plan 14:17	possibility 27:4	probably 20:6
32:8	15:19,24 16:4	52:23 53:2	27:10 34:12
penn 41:13	23:7 24:24	54:1	35:10 51:3
42:19	25:14,18,23	possibly 53:1	59:11
people 21:16	26:3,12 31:11	post 45:24	procedure 2:7
30:2 32:25	44:2,2,10 45:4	46:24 47:7,10	procedures
38:2 49:9	46:3,6,17,23	47:24 48:6	48:2,24
51:11 59:23	49:23 51:23	49:15 50:1	proceedings
percent 14:4,6	53:16	57:13,21 58:5	60:12 61:4
31:10,16	plane 39:19	pot 43:2	proceeds 14:4
perform 32:23	planned 47:3	potential 22:15	14:18 15:4
periods 51:10	plans 41:15	28:2 35:7	17:19,24 19:11
perkins 9:14	48:23	pre 47:24 48:8	21:23
permitted	plaza 6:3	precisely 29:1	process 18:11
26:19	plea 20:5	prejudice 25:4	18:13 28:16,20
personal 32:24	please 11:2	preliminary	31:3 54:18
	34:14	19:9 33:5,11	
		1014	

nuofossau	mumayam4 0.6	wathar 40.10	w 0000
professor	pursuant 2:6	rather 40:10	recognize
48:22	pushing 38:7	53:1	24:21 27:4
progress 25:13	put 16:10,12	rayan 9:11	33:1 45:7
25:14	23:6,11 28:6	reach 51:16	reconvene
projection	28:21 43:2	59:15	55:11
44:12	48:15 50:5	reached 13:18	record 58:16
proof 11:15	52:5 55:7	24:22 58:23	61:4
proofs 30:24	putting 29:1	reaching 25:18	recover 48:19
property 13:21	q	reaction 40:17	recoverable
13:23	qualifications	read 20:8	48:16
propose 37:24	30:17	37:21 49:18	recoveries 28:2
proposed 44:2	quantum	ready 19:23	recovery 42:24
47:11	25:21	56:22	42:24
propriety	quarter 44:7	real 31:25	references 23:7
29:16	quarter 44.7 question 12:15	reality 32:16	50:13
prosecuted	14:7 25:1,19	really 13:3	referring 25:12
50:6	30:16,21 32:14	21:17 23:25	33:7
prosecuting	34:10 42:4	29:20 33:10	refior 9:15
58:7	43:3 44:8 49:8	40:1,7 57:18	reflected 23:1
protection	58:15	reason 28:13	regard 54:8
44:16		38:24 47:1	regarding
provides 18:18	questions 28:9 50:9	56:11	24:14 27:3
published 30:3		reasoned 31:14	30:6 36:11
punitive 47:20	quick 56:21	reasons 32:24	regardless 31:8
48:10,12,16	quickly 29:20	32:25	regret 42:12
purchases	quite 24:1,1	recalcitrant	regrets 52:11
17:14	46:2	20:4	regretted
purdue 31:9	r	recall 59:20	36:24
50:15 52:25	r 1:21 5:1 9:21	receive 20:11	regular 52:15
53:1,9,14	11:1 30:10	received 24:10	regularly
purely 18:18	61:1	24:10,11	21:16
purport 21:9	raise 20:22	receiving 20:18	reilly 48:22
purpose 21:7	raised 25:22	26:1	relating 13:18
21:11 23:9,20	40:20 42:3	recent 59:11	54:7
25:23	raising 58:25	recognition	release 2:8
purposes 42:6	range 26:6,13	32:23	33:13
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	28:2		

released 33:5 releases 44:11 44:14 50:17 52:24 53:5,9 53:13 releasing 35:23 relief 2:12,17 3:1,10,16 4:1,5 4:10 22:3,5 23:20 24:1 36:3 38:25 reluctance 28:5 52:11 rely 36:9 remain 15:23	represent 23:24 30:15 33:9 34:17 40:25 43:25 represented 44:20 require 20:16 required 25:6 requires 31:10 42:22 reserve 30:6 resist 36:2 resolution 59:7 resounding 25:24 29:8	resulted 41:14 results 32:4 retain 13:24 retained 30:8 30:13 retired 43:7 return 48:9 reviewed 14:7 24:2 28:10 rhea 7:25 richard 9:2 right 11:2,5 12:11 13:8,12 17:1 19:1 24:8 32:20 35:19,20	ruled 20:6 21:14 50:11 rules 2:7 ruling 53:23 running 47:2 russell 9:18 rxr 6:3 s s 5:1 9:9 10:12 11:1 sad 45:20 49:24 safely 44:14 sale 14:4,18 16:11,17 17:5
56:3 remaining 56:1 remains 15:18 remanded 35:1 remedies 30:7 remember 15:13 16:5 37:18 remembering 15:17 remind 59:6 remove 24:12 renewed 60:2 reorganization 24:24 45:4 replete 23:7 reply 23:7 reply 23:7 report 24:11 24:18,19 26:1 56:21 reporter 37:19	resources 46:1 49:8,10 58:13 respect 12:15 14:21 18:4 20:14 22:6 26:7,20 33:19 34:1 respond 26:20 39:3 response 19:17 20:18 27:1 28:10 37:22 responses 11:9 responsive 43:22 rest 22:23 restriction 14:25 15:1 18:1,2 result 12:3 28:9,17 33:14	38:1,6 41:8 46:15 47:6 48:5,7 51:25 56:21 60:9 rights 21:4 30:6 ring 36:21 rings 28:21 rivera 10:12 road 7:10 61:21 robert 8:18 roberts 9:16 rochester 20:3 43:24 rockville 1:7 rolle 9:17 roman 1:7 roten 9:18 rough 45:2 rule 2:6	16:11,17 17:5 17:6,18,23 18:15 san 43:6 santa 6:17 satisfy 53:13 saw 16:6 saying 16:14 35:8 51:15 54:1 says 20:10 38:22 43:15 scenario 57:25 58:5 scenarios 49:11 schedule 44:5 scheduled 55:9 scheduling 34:21,22 schoenfeld 50:18

school 41:13	13:19,24 14:2	seven 49:24,25	sir 44:9
schools 47:17	14:6,21 17:18	several 20:13	sit 56:12
57:23	18:4,6,19	27:19,20 40:18	six 35:11
schwarz 9:19	send 24:4	sex 36:11 41:22	size 45:11,12
scouts 44:25	sending 19:25	sexual 4:2	skirt 53:15
51:5 53:15	sense 55:11	30:13	sleep 45:20
58:23 59:15,18	sent 19:20,22	shara 8:8	slog 28:14
scurrying	19:23 20:3	shared 42:9	slome 9:21
16:24	27:3	59:18	small 17:11
sealed 29:22	sentence 24:20	sharing 59:1	smith 9:22
sealing 30:4	separately	sharpening	sold 15:23
seated 11:2	54:16	59:5	solutions 61:20
seattle 7:4	serious 29:13	sheet 24:15	soma 10:7
57:22 58:1	30:16,21 57:19	short 17:5 24:1	somebody
second 36:15	seriously 46:2	29:5	15:17 17:1
39:18 42:16	session 56:18	shortly 40:16	someone's
53:14 56:5,10	sessions 24:21	show 2:3 49:16	39:23
see 12:2 15:16	24:21	shut 36:17	sonya 4:25
28:1,13 29:4	set 11:14 32:16	side 25:10,10	61:3,8
32:10 33:13	38:5,8 53:14	25:12 29:7	sorensen 9:23
35:14 38:8,21	settled 44:21	35:9	sorry 15:6
41:21 44:3	45:5 56:1	sides 25:11	19:15 24:16
49:25 50:13	57:13	26:8 27:17	28:8 30:9
51:5 55:11	settlement 2:8	42:23	35:17 42:17
56:13 60:7	13:13,18 14:8	sight 47:8	50:21 53:20
seek 22:3	14:11,12,14,21	sign 52:16	sought 34:1
seeking 21:22	16:17 17:17	signature 61:7	sounds 13:20
24:2	18:4,17,19,23	signed 51:18	southern 1:2
seem 20:16	19:13 22:15	significant	50:10
45:20 52:25	29:1,1 43:25	58:6,13	spare 57:10
seemed 21:14	44:1 58:8,9	silence 29:8	speak 36:7
seems 42:22	59:3	42:4	38:12
53:15	settlements	silvershein	special 6:9
seen 30:2 48:11	42:20,21 44:21	3:11 9:20	19:7
sell 47:17	settling 44:19	similarly 27:14	specific 28:19
seminary 2:9	45:1,1 59:12	siobhain 9:6	54:7
6:2 13:13,17	59:12		
		ral Solutions	

[spend - take] Page 20

		I	<u> </u>
spend 28:16	starting 55:25	stephen 10:9	suggested 47:1
spent 36:8	state 5:5 11:21	stephenie 3:17	53:8,9
41:17	11:22,23 12:13	stipulation	suggesting
split 14:4 48:20	13:23 17:10	54:25	27:17
spoken 28:18	18:8,12 22:4,6	stoneking 3:2	suggestion
sponte 55:6	26:4 27:20,22	9:24	25:24
spout 37:9	28:14,20 33:6	stop 20:15 29:7	suggestions
spring 51:1	34:5,13,18,23	43:21	29:6
stage 22:2	36:6,12 39:17	stopped 40:4	suite 6:10,17
26:17	39:25 40:11,13	strategy 47:10	7:3,17 61:22
stairs 40:9	40:18,23 41:8	47:13	sullivan 10:13
stance 32:22	41:13 42:19	street 5:5,19	supposedly
standing 20:23	45:3 47:24	6:10 7:3,17	27:24
21:2,21	58:9,24 59:13	stretch 32:6	supreme 50:22
stands 53:12	states 1:1,12	50:24	sure 15:14 23:8
stang 5:10 6:15	7:15	striking 30:5	37:15 41:12
6:20 13:16	status 2:1 11:6	structure	44:12 52:16
24:11 29:9,10	23:16 24:9,10	25:14	54:12 59:15,16
29:11,11,19,24	24:15,17,19	stumbling	surprise 49:9
30:6,10,12	26:1 27:3	25:18 26:23	survivor's
33:9,17 34:3,9	34:16 37:17	sua 55:6	19:13 25:22
35:17,19 36:16	stay 2:12,17	subject 11:19	survivors
36:19,20,25	3:1,10,16 4:1,5	19:12	31:10,16 32:21
37:1 38:6,18	4:10 19:2,12	submit 13:10	36:12 40:25
39:16,21,22	20:7,12,14	substance	suspect 35:21
40:3,6,8,9	22:6 23:12,20	29:17	40:20,20
42:15,17 43:1	23:22,23 33:20	substantially	sustained 12:6
43:5,6 44:9,12	35:24 36:3	30:22 53:16	12:16
46:20 54:18,19	38:25 48:8	succeeded	sustaining
54:21,21 55:4	50:2	41:19	12:18
55:8 56:19,20	steinman 33:6	success 33:12	t
57:16,16 59:1	34:15,19,24	successful 28:8	t 61:1,1
60:11	35:4,10 37:18	57:24	table 39:10
stang's 37:23	38:1,4	sugayan 9:25	take 18:11
start 11:5	step 23:3 39:2	suggest 28:11	21:25 40:9
45:23 56:1	stephanie 8:1	48:3 51:15	48:2 54:24
			10.2 J 1.2T
	Varitant I ac		

[taken - trial] Page 21

	I		
taken 12:17	47:9,18,24	39:7,8,11 41:2	40:15 41:12,13
31:18	48:5 49:16	41:21 44:4,6	41:17,17 51:10
talk 33:4 58:24	50:1,3,4 51:8,8	44:14,19 45:6	timely 11:15
talked 29:4	51:9,23 59:2	45:10,11,13	times 36:23,24
45:13 58:12	tested 30:24	46:10,21 47:6	57:19
talking 25:12	testified 30:14	47:8 48:19	timothy 6:13
34:11 46:18	testifying	49:24 50:13,17	today 28:6
47:23,23 52:24	38:18	51:3,11 53:8	36:3 37:3 52:3
53:21 54:12,14	testimony	55:8,13 56:8	today's 56:23
talks 60:3	31:17	56:21 57:10	todd 5:23 8:24
target 46:19	testing 31:7	58:17,18,19	together 43:2
47:13 51:9	thank 13:9	59:11	token 47:9
57:21	18:24,25 23:15	thinking 28:4	told 18:11
targets 46:23	24:6,7 39:14	34:12 46:10	34:19,22
telephonically	39:15 41:6	49:10 59:17	took 46:2
7:22	45:18,19 51:12	thinks 34:24	59:20
tell 18:14 33:15	57:6 58:21,22	third 5:12	tort 27:15
34:23 56:19	60:9,10,11	52:24 53:5	total 42:4
tells 48:22	theory 50:1	thomas 9:21	totality 32:9
tenor 38:13	theresa 8:13	thought 15:5	totally 34:6
term 24:15	thing 28:23	15:17 16:6	towards 49:25
51:2	41:21 42:1	28:5,20,23	town 17:12
terminate	52:9 55:24	34:9 36:23	track 58:16
16:16	things 17:16	39:22 47:7	transcribed
terms 39:9	24:9 45:22	51:12	4:25
57:24 58:7	50:15 54:13	thoughts 59:19	transcript 20:8
59:5	58:24	threats 19:10	20:9 37:20
test 27:16,25	think 15:3	19:14,16 21:22	61:4
28:24 33:4,19	17:19 21:20,21	three 35:9	transfer 13:19
33:21,22,23	22:22 25:6	45:22	14:22
34:11,20 35:6	26:10 27:7,9	tim 19:6	transmit 20:11
35:9,9,12,21	28:17 29:13,21	time 12:1,21,25	transpired
36:7,13 37:2	30:16,21 31:1	14:4 17:4,5	25:17
37:14,24 38:11	31:13,22 32:18	25:5,20,21	treated 32:3
38:16,19 39:7	32:25 33:2,23	28:16 31:19	trial 27:24 35:5
39:11,24 41:1	36:6,16 37:8,9	32:21 35:8	47:10 55:25
46:16,16,23	38:10,13,16,19	36:8,18 37:25	56:1,3
	1	1	

[trials - way] Page 22

trials 27:16	underestimate	use 14:3,23	village 18:7
tried 53:15	57:9	30:19 31:23	vince 10:13
59:8	underlying	32:11	vincequerra
true 51:8 61:4	58:9	using 41:1	10:2
trusha 8:19	underscore	usually 43:14	violation 20:22
trust 14:5,13	47:1	utility 37:2	virtue 44:13
14:15,17,19	understand	\mathbf{v}	vis 36:1,1
15:9,10 16:3	14:16 21:7	v 9:1	vote 31:11
45:2 48:1,23	23:23 33:25	vacuum 39:22	\mathbf{w}
57:15 58:8,9	35:4 42:5	valenza 10:1	w 6:13
59:3	49:12 51:14	valuations	wa 7:4
trustee 7:16	53:25	45:9,10 46:19	wait 51:9
trustee's 52:21	understanding	47:15	waiting 22:16
try 27:25,25	25:21 51:21	value 26:14	want 12:24
28:1,21,24	understands	29:14 30:12,23	
33:12,13 35:10	22:22	31:9,25 32:20	20:17 23:21
39:4 40:7	uninsured	38:19,20 39:8	25:16 26:17
49:14	46:20	41:2	27:5 29:7,25
trying 15:12	uniondale 6:4	valued 45:2	37:13 38:12
16:5 27:7 33:2	united 1:1,12	values 35:15	40:4,7,23 42:7
45:6 46:10	7:15	37:5 43:8,18	45:22 47:6
turn 56:25	universe 33:10	46:22	51:7 52:18
turned 43:9	35:15	van 24:17	54:5,25 55:1
twice 46:12	unknown 1:25	varick 7:17	56:11,18
two 25:11 35:9	unnecessary	variety 41:17	wanted 22:17
37:12 59:20	21:17,18,20	various 32:24	24:7 37:22,24
typically 53:4	23:13	42:25	39:17 44:18
u	unopposed	verdict 39:5	55:4
u.s. 1:23 7:16	11:15	verdicts 36:11	wants 35:21
52:20	unsettled	veritext 61:20	warner 10:3
uday 10:10	48:14	vertetis 7:1	warren 44:4
ultimately 14:5	unwilling 34:6	verteus 7.1 vesey 5:19	watch 27:12
16:12 47:12	update 54:10	viable 45:16	watson 10:4
unclear 25:17	upped 26:11	60:5	way 23:11
under 19:1	urge 49:14	view 15:21	27:24 28:6,12
35:22 46:17	51:11	25:13 26:4,14	32:2 33:11
53:15		37:4 43:10	41:4 42:14
JJ.1J		27.4 43.10	71.7 72.17

[way - à] Page 23

16.21 10.15	52.5 54.17	26.10
46:21 48:15	52:5 54:17	36:10
51:8 52:10,25	withdraw 2:3	Z
55:7 57:9	21:16	z 8:15
59:23	withdrawn	ziehl 5:10 6:15
wayne 8:9	11:8,23 21:12	13:16 29:11
ways 27:8	witness 30:17	zipes 7:20
we've 18:11	woodard 2:13	52:19,20,20
31:22 39:18	word 13:10	53:3,11,18,19
45:9,9,14	31:23	53:20,25 54:5
wealthiest	wording 24:25	54:15 55:14
43:13	words 35:7	zucker 6:1
webb 9:18	38:16	à
website 41:13	work 46:24	
41:16 42:19	working 32:19	à 36:1
wednesday	world 30:5	
56:16 57:2	worth 36:9	
week 15:23	38:22	
41:23 52:4	wring 56:18	
weeks 20:7	write 26:9	
32:5	writing 37:7	
weiss 10:5	written 22:23	
welcome 41:7	wrong 15:5	
went 57:14	34:14 36:4	
westerman 6:1	wrote 34:10	
18:6	X	
wi 6:11	x 1:4,10	
wide 56:16,18	y	
wight 26:6 william 6:6	yeah 35:3 56:8	-
8:20 18:5	year 16:11	
willing 20:11	18:11 44:7	
willingness	years 36:22	
23:2 51:22	59:20	
win 36:13	yitzchak 8:16	
wings 59:7	york 1:2,7,14	
wish 11:10	5:13,20 7:18	
18:3,22 41:9	17:10 18:8,12	